AL FAJR

16 PAGES
IS 40

JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN WEEKLY

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to
Al-Fajr
2025 I Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20006

(USPS 686-630

Serial Records Division
Harvard College Library
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise c 5, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Review Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

NOVEMBER 25,1983 THE ONLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SIX ISRAELIS EXCHANGED FOR 4700 PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE

Jubilant Scenes as Ansar Prisoners Freed

All detainees at Ansar camp and other interrogation centres in South Lebanon and 100 Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli jails were released, November 24, in exchange for six Israeli POWs captured by the PLO, September 4, 1982, during Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

The dramatic exchange was supervised by International Committee of the Red Cross teams in Tripoli, where the Israelis were held, Ansar and other detention centres in south Lebanon and at Lydda airport and other release centres.

As the Israelis boarded a fishing boat in Tripoli port, late-night, November 23, 4600 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners were moved out of the camp at Ansar, near Nabatiya and from at least three other Israeli interrogation centres in South Lebanon. An estimated 1600 Palestinians were taken by helicopter and transport planes to Lydda airport, near Tel Aviv, where they boarded three Boeing 747 planes chartered by the ICRC from Air France which were to take them to Algeria.

When news came through that the Israelis had been transferred first to a French boat and then to an Israeli warship, the planes, which had Red Cross emblems pasted on their fuselages, took off. There were happy scenes at the airport as the detainees, wearing new ICRC-issued track suits sang patriotic songs, chanted pro-PLO slogans and made victory signs. The planes left at approximately 2:30 am. Those interviewed said that after getting to Algiers they would go to Tripoli, Lebanon to fight with Yasir Arafat.

As their colleagues were leaving for the airport, the 3000 Ansar detainees who opted to remain in South Lebanon were taken by bus to four release centres in Sidon, Tyre, Nabatiya and Hasbaya. The four towns had been put under curfew the night before in preparation for the freeing of the detainees, many of whom are natives of the area. Western reporters said the Israelis were fearful of clashes with the local population during the release.

Before they left Ansar, Israeli military officers gave each released prisoner a letter congratulating them and warning them not to carry out "terrorist acts." The letter concluded "we hope not to see you in Ansar again," according to Israel Radio.

One hundred Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails were also taken to Lydda as part of the exchange. Among them are 13 Nafha prisoners and five from the women's jail at Neve Tertza. According to legal sources, 37 of these were kidnapped from Lebanon-bound ships in the past few weeks. The rest were prisoners serving long sentences.

Several women POWs held by the Israelis in Lebanon were also freed, according to Israeli reports.

The final part of the exchange was the release of the archives of the Palestine Research Centre. Crates of books, pictures, films and documents were loaded onto the Algiers-bound planes. The PRC, then based in Beirut, was looted by the Israeli Army when they entered West Beirut after the assassination of Bashir Gemayel, Lebanese President-elect, in September 1982.

When the Air France planes touched down in Algiers, the Palestinian POWs disembarked carrying portraits of Yasir Arafat. PLO officials in the city said they did not know where the released men would go immediately. Several of them repeated their desire to go to fight in Tripoli.

There were also happy scenes in Tel Aviv when the Israeli POWs were reunited with their families. The six men said they had been treated well in captivity and that their Palestin-

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Plan to Liquidate Camps Unveiled

Israeli minister without portfolio Mordechai Ben Porat unveiled, November 20, his plan to resettle the Palestinian refugees from West Bank camps, at a press conference in West Jerusalem. Ben Porat said he needs US$1.5 billion to liquidate the camps within five years. He claimed that the five percent of camp residents he had talked to agreed to accept "villas on a plot of land."

At a separate press conference, the next day, residents of the Dheisheh camp, near Bethlehem, strongly rejected the Israeli plan and called for a "comprehensive settlement in the Middle East based on UN resolutions." *(see page 3 for statement).*

Ben Porat, chairman of a six-member ministerial committee on the resettlement of inhabitants of the Palestinian camps, claimed there are no political benefits for Israel. The plan was arranged and endorsed by the Israeli Knesset for humanitarian reasons, he said. The plan was presented in general terms only. Ben Porat gave no specific details, no budget and no timetable for its implementation.

According to the resettlement plan, Ben Porat said section after section of each camp will be demolished and families will be assisted in building their own houses.

Ben Porat repeatedly refused to reveal operational details of the plan. He told reporters he refused to comment because the Cabinet had yet to approve his proposals.

The minister without portfolio said that once the plan gets approval some parts of it can be implemented immediately. Although he did not specify exactly which parts, he is believed to be referring to plans to bulldoze refugee camps around Jericho whose residents were forced out during the 1967 war. The Israeli military is also said to be keen on immediate relocation of refugee camp schools away from main roads.

Ben Porat introduced Rafi Sadeh, officer in charge of an Israeli project to depopulate refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. Sadeh said that since 1972 8000 families have built homes outside the camps. He made no mention of the massive military repression which accompanied the early evictions.

Asked whether there were plans to resettle refugees near their homes within the 'green line', Ben Porat said "if we do so, then we will have to send the Jewish refugees who came from the Arab countries to their own homes."

Six residents from the Dheisheh camp challenged the Israeli press attending a press conference sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with Bir Zeit University, November 21, to "come to the camp and ask

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RAMALLAH, BEITUNIA, RAFAT, BEIT ULA LANDS HIT

6000 Dunums Grabbed

At least 6000 dunums of land was confiscated in two separate West Bank grabs, this week.

Israeli authorities grabbed between 4000 and 6000 dunums from Beit Ula, Hebron district, November 17. An official from the 'civil administration' went to the village and, accompanied by two local *mukhtars*, he pointed out the grabbed area and announced it was now "government property."

No official maps of the confiscated land were given and no written order issued, villagers said. The 60 owners of the land were notified verbally through the *mukhtars* that they can protest the decision within 30 days, according to legal sources.

Lawyer Abd al-Karim Namoura, who represents some of the owners, has called on Israeli authorities to supply him with the necessary maps and orders about the confiscated land. Namoura has claimed to the general military prosecutor Dani Kreimer that the "verbal notification is insufficient" and that the owners of the land are "incapable of opposing the land confiscation unless they are given specific maps in order to survey their land," he said. So far the Israeli authorities have not put signs on the land, locals report.

Mukhtar Abd al-Salam Salem Adam told lawyers that residents of the village have land property tax registration documents dating from the British mandatory period, proving the residents' ownership of the confiscated land. The *mukhtar* added that the Palestinian farmers at that time used to reduce the area of their land in order to avoid paying heavy taxes to the British authorities, thus they actually own much more than they can show tax papers for.

Beit Ula farmers have cultivated the land annually, "and this refutes the Israeli authorities' claim that it is deserted," laywer Namoura told *Al Fajr*. He called the grab "a violation of the residents' basic rights."

The confiscated land is in fertile valleys and planted with vegetables and wheat. The Israeli Army has occasionally used other parts of Beit Ula for training and manoeuvres.

Over 1500 dunums of land were grabbed, November 16, from Ramallah, Beitunia and Rafat. The land, a single block, was taken "for military purposes," according to the Israelis.

The land has been taken to expand a military camp, according to residents of Rafat, a village of 1200. It is the third time the Israeli authorities have confiscated Rafat land since 1968. It has all gone to the same camp, they say.

Landowners of Beitunia, a village of 5000, and Rafat were given the Israeli grab order via the *mukhtar* of Rafat, Wajih Abd al-Muttaleb, and the mayor of Beitunia, Ahmad Lutfi Othman. Some owners of land in the area live in Ramallah.

If the grab goes through, Rafat will have no agricultural or building land left, villagers report.

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Hashem Mohammed Hashem stands between his daughter Ghasaleh, 17, and son Abdallah, 15, before leaving Jerusalem's Princess Basmah Hospital for the Handicapped, Mount of Olives.

The two Lebanese youths, who lost their legs in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, last summer, spent several months in Maqassed Hospital and the Princess Basmah handicapped center./AA

Lebanese Shot at Awali Crossing

Israeli troops in South Lebanon shot and wounded four Lebanese civilians, November 23, as they were crossing an Awali River bridge into South Lebanon.

Earlier one Israeli soldier was killed and six others wounded in an explosion near Sidon.

Reporters in South Lebanon said that Israeli troops stationed at a checkpost on the bridge, near Sidon, opened fire on civilians returning to South Lebanon, wounding four, one of them seriously. The shooting led to clashes between troops and crowds of civilians. Soldiers used gun butts to beat off the crowds, while the Lebanese civilians showered the soldiers with stones, reports from the spot said. Three Lebanese were detained.

The area had been tense before the incident, foreign reporters said. The crossing points were closed down for four hours earlier in the day, with an Israeli military source claiming "security requirements." The source claimed that they had information that checkposts on the crossing points were to be attacked by nationalist commandos.

The previous day, the bridges were closed to traffic and a state of emergency declared after Israeli reports that booby-trapped cars were being smuggled into South Lebanon.

The scare came only a few days after the Israeli authorities cancelled a regulation requiring Lebanese civilians to get permits from them to travel between north and south Lebanon.

Israeli soldiers have been under almost constant attack since occupation. The Israeli military spokesman puts the current death toll at 554.

The latest attack occurred November 17. One soldier was killed and six wounded when a large bomb planted on the coastal road north of Sidon was detonated by remote control as an Israeli convoy of one jeep and two trucks was passing. The soldiers who escaped injury opened fire in all directions and called in reinforcements. Troops later combed the area. There were no reports of arrests.

Among other incidents in the week, UNIFIL troops in South Lebanon dismantled four land mines planted on a road frequently used by the Israeli Army. UNIFIL troops also found a Katyusha rocket which had been launched but failed to explode, an official statement said.

Israeli military sources claimed that several commandos were killed after Israeli troops discovered four cells and seized some mines and RPG launchers. No further details were available.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 186, November 25, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censors 29
Number of articles totally censored out 8
Number of articles partially censored but used 2
Number of articles passed 19

Tripoli Fighting Stops

A cease-fire agreement involving all the parties involved in the battles in and around the Tripoli area was approved, November 23.

The cease-fire agreement, which came about through the mediation of the Saudi government, consisted of two points: the removal of all forces from Tripoli and the preservation of the unity of the PLO through the cessation of the internal armed struggle and the beginning of a political dialogue in order to end the crisis within the PLO, according to reports from Lebanon.

The cease-fire followed an intense week of fighting, during which PLO loyalists were pushed from north of the city into the suburbs of Tripoli. Foreign journalists said that the forces opposed to PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat reached within 600 metres of his headquarters in Tripoli. Baddawi refugee camp, north of Tripoli, was reported almost completely controlled by Syrian-backed rebels.

Thousands of shells and rockets pounded Tripoli during the days leading up to the cease-fire. Lebanese sources said it was one of the most intensive bombardments the city had ever seen.

The cease-fire agreement was strengthened when the Palestinian mediation committee, consisting of 18 well-respected Palestinian personalities, announced support for it and approved a system for Palestinian supervision.

The supervision was put forward by the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, November 21. It calls for an independent Palestinian team to oversee the cease-fire, which will make public the name of the party which violates it.

The supervisory team is to consist of Colonel Samir Khatib, head of the military department of the PLO, and military officers from the PFLP and the DFLP.

Israeli Plane Downed in Air Raid

One Israeli plane was downed in an air raid, Sunday, November 20, on Palestinian and Syrian positions in the Beqa'a valley, South Lebanon. In the Beirut area, there were sporadic exchanges of heavy fire between the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias and the combined forces of the Lebanese Army and the Phalangists. Western observers say the civil war cease-fire is all but dead.

The most serious military engagement occurred on Sunday afternoon, when Israeli war planes bombarded Palestinian positions behind Syrian lines in the Bhamdoun, Sofar, and Kufr Faluah areas of the Beqa'a Valley.

A Syrian military communique which was issued in Damascus on the same afternoon said Syrian anti-aircraft batteries shot down two of the raiding jets. The communique also stated that extensive anti-aircraft fire blinded the raiding jets, causing them to drop their loads far from their targets.

Tension was also high in the Beirut-area, where several clashes between the Lebanese Army—Phalangist forces and the Shi'ite Amal and PSP fighters occurred. Lebanese state radio said, November 21, that army and Amal forces exchanged heavy artillery fire in the southern Beirut suburbs. Several civilians were reported wounded.

On the same day, several incidents of exchange of fire occurred between the Lebanese Army in Beirut and PSP forces entrenched on the hills overlooking the capital.

Syrian Defence Miniser General Mustafa Tlass told the Beirut-based *Al Kifah al-Arabi* that Syria was "prepared to fight back" should the US and Israel attack it.

An Israeli military spokesman admitted that one Israeli-made Kfir fighter was shot down. The pilot parachutted out and was captured by the Lebanese Army. He was turned over to the Israelis on the same day.

Early last week, French war planes pounded positions of Shi'ite militias in the Baalbak area. More than 34 people were killed in the attack. French military sources said the air raids were "in revenge for the suicide car bomb attacks," in which 58 paratroopers were killed.

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Prisoners

ian captors had constantly reassured them of eventual release. They denied they had been tortured.

They said they first heard they were to be freed November 21.

First hand reports talked of scenes of jubilation in South Lebanon, the occupied territories and in various Israeli jails. One man whose relative is still in jail told *Al Fajr* he was still happy for the relatives of those who were released.

Mahmoud Abu Ein, brother of Ziad, the young Palestinian extradited from the US to Israel and sentenced to life imprisonment for his alleged involvement in a bomb explosion, told *Al Fajr* he felt "disbelief" on hearing of Ziad's release.

He said "just as Israelis are interested in their sons, so the PLO has proved to the world that it is concerned about every one of its sons and will not abandon any one of them."

Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, who defended many of the released prisoners, praised the exchange. Asking "why this terrible Israeli invasion was needed in the first place," Langer told *Al Fajr* that the emptying of Ansar will "reveal for the first time who was held there and who was not." She hoped that after Israeli prisoners tell of the humane treatment they received at the hands of the Palestinians, pressure will be exercised on Israel to treat Palestinian prisoners, especially the women prisoners held in Neve Tertza, in a "proper way."

The November 24 exchange was the product of 14 months of negotiations. According to reports attributed to the Red Cross, there were 120 meetings involving PLO representatives, Israeli officials and Red Cross officers. The final details of the plan were worked out by a senior ICRC representative shuttling between Yasir Arafat's office in Tripoli and Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters that the decision to conclude the exchange had been taken because of fears for the Isrelis' lives.

Two other Israelis are being held by the forces of Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The Syrians are holding three Israelis. Israeli officials say they will continue negotiations to get these prisoners freed.

Political Prisoners Released from Israeli jails:

1. Fawzi Nimr
2. Zaki Mala'bi
3. Teresa Halaseh
4. Ziad Abu Ein
5. Nadia Khayatt
6. Bassam Fretekh
7. Adel Dardook
8. Hanna Mahshi
9. Itaf Yousef
10. Zakia Shamout
11. Usama Hikmat Husseini
12. Taiseer Abu Sneineh
13. Yasir Ziadat
14. Yacoub Diwani
15. Najah 'Iliayn
16. Omar Qassem
17. Adnan Jaber
18. Hanan Mseeh
19. Jamal Yassin
20. Mousa Juma'a Talalqa
21. Omar Silawi
22. Mohammad Greifat
23. Yusef Hassan Abu Kheir
24. Jaber Ali Amar
25. Said Assad Khalil
26. Ahmad Hassan Abu Amar
27. Tawfiq Abd al-Hadi Jodeh
28. Ahmad Abu Hassan
29. Abd al-Majed Abdallah
30. Bassem Dardook
31. Bassem Kanj Jamal
32. Bilal Masarweh
33. Abd al-Said Mas'od
34. Issam Shayeb
35. Fizi' Hamdan
36. Ghassan Nimr Dweek
37. Ahmad Jaber
38. Ali Hussein Ali
39. Jihad Saleh Sanji
40. Mahmoud Shamout
41. 'Id Nassan
42. Ahmad Atieh
43. Muhammed Shubaki
44. 'Id Mas'od
45. Ali Abu Zeinab
46. Azzam Farhan
47. Ahmad Abu Hassan
48. Assad Mujahed
49. Mujahed Hubani
50. Hamdallah Uthman
51. Hussein Abu Hashieh
52. Ibrahim Fakher
53. Issa Yousef
54. Mahmoud Fathi Alfi
55. Sleiman Hassan Shamout
56. Majed Qassem Odeh
57. Marwan Jamil Awad
58. Mohammed Ali Hassan
59. Mohammed Qasseem
60. Mohammed Darwish Anabtawi
61. Ghassan Dabeek

Thousands Attend Political Prisoner's Funeral

More than 3000 Palestinians from all over the occupied territories took part in the funeral of political prisoner Ishaq Musa Maraghi (Abu Jamal) in Jerusalem, November 18. Abu Jamal, 43, died from a heart attack in Beer Sheba prison two days earlier. He was serving a 20-year sentence on charges of membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The funeral began at 3:30 pm from the martyr's house in Silwan. The body was covered with a Palestinian flag and youths carrying palm fronds walked in front of the procession. The funeral procession marched through the town singing national songs. Thousands of Silwanis stood on rooftops watching.

The coffin then was carried by car to Herod's Gate, Jerusalem, where the procession reassembled for a second march to al-Aqsa Mosque. Hundreds of helmeted Israeli soldiers and policemen stood on both sides of the road, prepared for incidents. According to eyewitnesses, the Israeli troops appeared reluctant to enter into a confrontation with the more than 3000 residents, who were in a highly emotional state.

After prayers in al-Aqsa, the body was carried to the Herod's Gate cemetery, where it was buried.

Abu Jamal is the younger brother of Colonel Abu Musa. He was among a group of 72 Palestinian political prisoners who were sent to the desert prison of Nafha in 1980 and took part in the 40-day hunger strike there in the same year....

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According to reports, on the evening of his death Abu Jamal complained of chest pains. A nurse who runs the prison clinic gave him some medicine and reassured fellow prisoners of his condition. The pains apparently got worse and he was unable to dress. He died in the prison before being taken to hospital, according to prison reports.

Israeli announcements say he was suffering high blood-pressure and an Israeli autopsy report says he had a heart attack.

Occupation Forces Hit in Bomb Attacks

There were a series of petrol bomb attacks against Israeli targets in Tulkarm and Nablus between November 17 and 22.

The major attack took place, November 21, when four petrol bombs were thrown at the military compound in Tulkarm. Israel Radio, in a report on the incident, said two of the four bombs exploded, causing slight damage.

The nearby Tulkarm refugee camp was placed under curfew after the incident, and military patrols were dispatched to search for the attackers. There were no reports of arrests or casualties.

Three days earlier, an Israeli Army observation post near the camp was attacked with a Molotov. Again, there was no report of casualties. The camp was placed under curfew.

On the same morning, there were two Molotov attacks on two Israeli Egged buses driving through Tulkarm town. Israeli soldiers, who were travelling on the bus, fired shots in all directions, according to reports from the town. *The Jerusalem Post* said the bombs did not cause damage. A curfew was imposed on the town as soldiers tried to pursue the attackers.

A similar attack occurred, November 17, in Balata refugee camp, near Nablus. The camp was placed under curfew.

The attacks came after more than two weeks of daily demonstrations. Two Tulkarm youths were shot dead in protests and several others from the West Bank and Gaza Strip were wounded.

Occasional protests were still taking place in various parts of the occupied territories, this week.

Two Gaza youths were reported wounded, November 17, during an attack by Israeli soldiers on a demonstration by school students in the city. No further details were available.

Qadri Touqan Secondary School, Nablus, was closed, the same day, by military order.

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Dheishans Detail Siege-like Conditions at Camp

Palestinian residents of Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem, held a press conference, November 21, to describe the harassment they have suffered under the past three weeks of virtually consecutive curfew.

Hassan Abd al-Jawad, the chairman of the Social Youth Centre, said that the camp has become "a model for oppression" and it is "now like a ghetto." Ten camp entrances have been sealed with reinforced concrete and the Social Youth Centre has been closed for two years. The camp spokespeople reported that 400 canisters of tear gas were fired into the camp during the three weeks of curfew and 200 people were arrested. Thirty-seven of them were fined IS9000.

During the curfew, special units of non-Arabic speaking paratroopers were active in the camp. "They cannot communicate with residents and their main task is to oppress people and to break into houses," they said.

Felicia Langer who has represented dozens of Dheisheh cases, said camp inhabitants are "easy targets, prey for the oppression of the occupation."

Other residents reported their version of events on November 13, when three youths, Khaled Shaker Ilayan and brothers Ali and Ghazi Mahmoud Sharif were wounded. Dheishans say Israeli settlers wearing civilian clothes shot and wounded the youths. The assault was carried out after a military-imposed curfew.

Um Khaled, mother of Khaled, told reporters that a curfew was imposed at 2:00 am. "At 5:00 am we were at home," she said. "Five civilians wearing blue *kafiyyas*, one a tall blonde man wearing a blue jacket, broke into our house. They took Adel away."

The woman followed them and met four soldiers, who she asked about her son, she said. "But they were indifferent." Um Khaled said she was unable to return home immediately because of an outbreak of shooting in the camp. When she got there she was told by neighbours that her son Khaled had been wounded by settlers shooting in the house.

Later she went to Beit Jala Hospital and saw Khaled. She then went to the Bethlehem police headquarters and asked about her other son, Adel. The police said they did not know anything, she reported.

Abed Shaker, 15, said the settlers who broke into the house broke windows and took him away. He said he was beaten up by soldiers and taken to Bethlehem for two days of "interrogation and torture."

STATEMENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF DHEISHEH REFUGEE CAMP

Over the many years of occupation, our camp and other Palestinian refugee camps have suffered continuously from acts of oppression whose ultimate aim is the "resettlement" of the refugees. Similar attempts were made during the 1950s by the US and Arab reactionaries, in the name of "improving the conditions of the refugees." These attempts were based on the assumption that the plight of the refugees was at the heart of the Palestine problem. Advocates of "resettlement," then and now, believed this would do away with the Palestine problem. We, the residents of Dheisheh refugee camp, feel that our camp is the first target in the execution of the programme, a feeling confirmed by the declarations of leading security figures, including Moshe Arens, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Shlomo Elia.

The initiator of this programme, the minister Ben Porat, visited our camp last year, when we expressed our total and resolute rejection of the idea of "resettlement" under any guise. Further, we expressed our support for the UN resolutions, affirming the right of return and of self-determination of the Palestinian people as a recognised natural and legal right.

As preparation for "resettlement," we have been subjected to a series of repressive acts — the arrest of tens of residents, night raids on our homes, curfews lasting weeks, heavy fines under different pretexts, confiscation of books, sealing of main streets with reinforced concrete, closure of shops bordering the inter-city road and closure of schools for periods of months. These acts have transformed our daily life into life under a prolonged and intolerable siege, destroying daily routines and adversely affecting the psychological well-being of everyone, most especially our children.

In the recent period, not content with these measures, the occupation authorities are responsible for the serious wounding of four of our young men, while further threatening to treat the residents of the camp with an iron hand. These acts of repression forced us to appeal to the High Court to order the re-opening of the sealed-off streets and to prevent the destruction of the houses bordering the intercity road. The response of the government was to seal additional streets.

We, the residents of the "new ghetto" in this Middle Eastern "democracy," call upon all parties, institutions and progressive individuals both here and abroad to work for a speedy end to the policy of repression.

We stress that the occupation forces are directly responsible for our sufferings and for the harsh political and economic conditions under which we live. We ask you to act to prevent the dismantling of the refugee camps in the occupied territories, and particularly of Dheisheh camp.

November 21, 1983
Residents of Dheisheh Refugee Camp

Halhoul Mayor Protests Settler Rampage

Acting Halhoul Mayor Hijjazi Madiyah protested, November 21, to the military commander of the Hebron area about damage caused by settlers, on the evening of November 20, to vehicles and houses in the town.

Kiryat Arba residents went to Halhoul after (an Israeli) bus was stoned and broke car windows and damaged private houses on the main road. A bus belonging to the head of the Hebron Village League, Jamil al-Amle, was badly damaged.

Hahoul inhabitants complained to the Hebron police the next day.

The (West Bank) and Gaza Settlement Council convened, November 21, to discuss ways to "increase security" on roads. The meeting's resolutions were not made public. (Translation: Yediot Aharanot, November 22, 1983).

Israeli Authorities Detain Priest

The Israeli authorities have been holding a Roman Catholic priest without charge since November 4, it was learned this week. The priest, Father Fawzi Khoury, 36, from the Fassouta Roman Catholic Church, was arrested at Lydda airport while on his way to Paris to continue his advanced theological studies. Bishop of Haifa and the Galilee Maxim Salloom sent protest telegramme, November 21, to the Israeli prime minister and the interior and defence ministers. Bishop Salloom pointed out that Khoury's health has deteriorated in prison and that he has been held for more than 18 days without charge.

Al Ittihad wrote, November 23, that released prisoners say Father Khoury's health is poor "as a result of the psychological pressure that is being exercised against him by Israeli interrogators."

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UNRWA, Waqf Query Proposed Depot Demolition

Waqf (Islamic charitable trust) and UNRWA officials met, November 17, with Morris Zelkha, Jerusalem municipal advisor for Arab affairs, to clarify reports of municipality plans to grab the *waqf*-owned Damascus Gate bus station.

Zelkha said the municipality wants to transfer the bus station to Musrara, according to sources at the meeting, which was attended by: Hassan Tahboub, director of the *waqf*; Adnan Husseini, *waqf* engineer; Roy Skinner, UNRWA operations director; and Husni Shahwan, UNRWA district director.

HaAretz alleged engineering students from Harvard University, USA, will present plans for a new bus station at a second meeting of the *waqf* and the municipality. The *waqf* said it knows nothing about the subject. The Israeli paper charged that the municipality has set aside US$3.5 million to build a park on the bus station site.

Hassan Tahboub said the expropriation of *waqf* property was not discussed at the meeting.

According to reports in *HaAretz*, November 20, an agreement was reached to demolish the bus station and an UNRWA rations distribution centre in Bab Asbat (St Stephen's Gate), near al-Aqsa Mosque. The report is denied by the *waqf*. In a statement the *waqf* said that it has been discussing transfer of the rations centre since 1967 and has set aside JD3000 for the project. There were no talks with the municipality, they said.

The *waqf* said it asked Zelkha to send them written proposals about the transfer of the busses. They rented the bus station area for 30 years to the East Jerusalem municipality in 1953. The lease expired October 15, this year.

Dheisheh residents Ghazi Mahmoud Sharif, 20, and his brother Ali, 23, were wounded November 13 when Israeli settler-soldiers raided the refugee camp. Ali was shot in the right thigh and Ghazi in the left hand. Dheisheh residents held a press conference on Monday to protest military harassment *(see page 3)***POP photo**

School Closures Protested

UNRWA sent, November 18, a written protest to the Israeli authorities in the West Bank over the closing of an agency school for 942 young girls, and a training centre, the Kalandia Vocational Training Centre, serving 450 young men, located north of Jerusalem.

They were ordered closed for one month, November 1, because of stone-throwing incidents.

Commenting on the incident during a meeting of the UN General Assembly's Special Political Committee in New York, UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said, "I cannot accept that the closure of the school and training centre, affecting the education of all who attend them, is justified or appropriate, and I recall that on the day of the alleged incident in question there were only 10 trainees at the Kalandia Training Centre."

Rydbeck said that UNRWA would do everything it could to ensure that its premises were not used as a sanctuary for those who violate law and order.

There have been numerous incidents of curfew with interruptions in UNRWA services in the West Bank recently. In addition, the authorities have told UNRWA to close the Girls and Boys Schools at Jalazon camp, north of Ramallah, for one month as of November 15 due to disturbances. The schools have 1268 pupils. UNRWA has asked the authorities for details on the closing.

UNRWA provides education, health and welfare services to almost 300,000 registered Palestine refugees living in the West Bank. There are 98 elementary and junior secondary schools and three teacher and vocational training centres in the West Bank operated by UNRWA.

JEC Ordered to Halt Generator Installation

The West Jerusalem municipality ordered the Arab-owned Jerusalem Electricity Company, November 14, to stop installation of a new generator at their plant in Anata. The municipality claimed that the Arab electricity company should get a license before undertaking the work.

A magistrates court approved the municipality order, November 18.

Ram Hafif, deputy director general of the Israeli energy ministry, claims the JEC did not get an installation permit from them.

Anwar Nusseibeh, chairman of the JEC, applied for the building license, November 17.

A senior official in the JEC told *Al Fajr* that the company had received an import license for a new 5.6 megawatt generator from the Israeli ministry of industry a few months ago. "We ended infrastructure work (for the new generator), November 10," a senior engineer at the JEC told *Al Fajr*. Work on excavating, building retaining walls and installing the concrete 12-metre-deep foundations took eight months. It cost the JEC JD10,000, the engineer said.

The engineer at the Arab electricity company said the company has to write a report on the effects of the new generator on the environment before its application will be accepted. The municipality environmental department claims the JEC is a source of noise and pollution. Sources in the municipality said the aim of their court order was "not political" and was issued to "maintain order."

Two years ago the Israeli government attempted to expropriate the JEC.

Seventy to 80 percent of the power (60,000 megawatts) supplied by the JEC is taken from the Israeli grid, at present. The new generator would reduce this dependence to 50 percent, company sources estimate. Ninety-three thousand West Bank and Jerusalem residents take power from the company.

RETREAT FROM RABAT RESOLUTIONS?

Jordan Plans to Reactivate Parliament

The Jordanian government is planning to reactivate parliament in the near future, according to reports from Amman, November 21. The Jordanian parliament, which had Jordanian and West Bank Palestinian representatives, was frozen in 1974 after the Arab Summit conference in Rabat, Morocco, which recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Israel television reported several announcements by senior Jordanian government officials, including King Hussein, that parliamentary elections will only be held in Jordan. West Bank members of the last parliament will be returned unelected, reports stated. Members who have died since 1974 will be succeeded by those who came second in the polls.

Dr Hafez Abd al-Nabi Natshe, one of five parliament members from the Hebron district, declined to give any comment on the reports. Natshe attacked Palestinians saying, "When the Palestinians become human beings, I will comment."

Ramadan Hijjeh, a former Jordanian MP from Dura, was unavailable for comment. His family said he is on a visit to Jordan.

Other parliamentarians said they had heard the Jordanian statements but had received no official notification.

The Jordanian Council of Representatives was frozen in 1974, along with the constitution, by an edict from King Hussein. It had 60 elected members: 30 members from the West Bank and 30 from Jordan. The council was replaced by a Consultative National Council. It has no legislative power.

After the 1967 war and Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Council of Representatives continued to function normally. West Bank MP's continued to participate in council meetings until 1974.

Palestinian analysts say the reactivation of the Council of Representatives means a "retreat from the Rabat Summit resolutions."

Israeli commentators made the same link and said it is part of a Jordanian move, in conjunction with the US, to reactivate the September 1982 Reagan plan.

Settlers Threaten New Vigilante Action

Settler vigilantism in the occupied territories will rise if plans discussed at a meetting in Kiryat Arba, November 22, are implemented, according to Israeli observers. *Ma'ariv* said the West Bank and Gaza Strip settlement council decided at the extraordinary meeting to "take measures to quell Palestinian resistance to the occupation into its own hands."

After the meeting, held to protest the sentencing of a settler to one year jail for shooting an al-Bireh youth, last year, settlers refused to disclose their decisions. There were angery scenes the next day, however, when an army representative refused to amend standing orders governing when to open fire.

The army told settlers to chase and apprehend stone-throwers. Settlers reportedly want to shoot them.

The settlers council unanimously approved a decision to encourage retaliation against rock-throwers and their families, the Israeli reports say. They also demanded the military take "severe action" against the Palestinian population as a whole.

A large crowd of settlers from Kiryat Arba set up roadblocks on the main Jerusalem-Hebron road at Halhoul, following an attack on an Israeli Egged bus. The settlers went on a rampage around the town for five hours, stoning houses and cars. Windows of nine Arab homes were damaged, as well as several cars.

There was no serious attempt by Israeli soldiers to stop the vigilantes, town residents complained. Halhoul filed a complaint on the settlers' actions with the military government. Translation: Al Mithaq, Al Fajr, November 23, 1983).

The Peace Now movement sent all 120 members of the Israeli Knesset a detailed list of "illegal and provocative" acts by Kiryat Arba and Hebron area settlers, November 23. The list dealt with settler attacks on the Israeli Army, cases in which settlers took the law into their own hands and examples of settlers' use of violence to grab Palestinian homes and land. There were no immediate reactions from the MKs.

Histadrut: Arab Workers First to Go

Construction workers from the (occupied territories) will be the first to lose their jobs if forecasts that thousands of construction workers are to be fired prove correct, Mordechai Amster, secretary of the construction workers union, said, November 17. "They are not inhabitants of Israel and in every state where there is unemployment, the first to be dismissed are the foreign workers," said Amster, who was formerly the head of a committee trying to organise workers from the occupied territories in the *Histadrut*.

Amster said the *Histadrut* (Israeli Labour Federation) will not agree that contracting companies first dismiss Israeli workers, whose salaries are 30 percent higher than those of workers from the (occupied territories). Signs of this already exist, he said.

Approximately 30,000 workers from the (occupied territories) are employed in construction, only two-thirds of them legally.

The Secretary of the Construction Workers Union said the workers' councils and committees should often visit building sites to stop employers from exploiting the crisis in the construction sector by dismissing Israeli workers and employing others "at lower salaries and conditions." (Translation: HaAretz, November 17, 1983).

CHILD LABOUR ILLEGAL

Chairperson of the Israeli Knesset Committee for Education and Culture MK Orah Namir requested, November 19, that urgent notice be given to the employment of Arab children in settlements. Releasing her plea, she said employing children is "breaking the law" and is a "shameful phenomenon" caused by greed for money. Children are employed in "shameful" conditions and dodge the payment of national insurance, she said. (Translation: Al Hamishamer, November 20, 1983).

The Dawn
AL FAJR
Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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Al Fajr was founded in 1972 by Yusef Nasr, who edited the paper until his kidnapping in 1974. The English edition was first published in April 1980.
The Dawn (Al Fajr) Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly (UPS 686630) is published weekly for $40.00 per year by Paul Ajlouny, 16 Crowell St., Hempstead, N.Y. 11550. Second class postage paid at Hempstead, N.Y.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Al Fajr 2025 I Street N.W., Suite 925, Washington D.C., 20006.

The Editorial was not allowed to be Published in Jerusalem

Atrocities Must End

Palestinian prisoner Ishaq Musa Maraghi (Abu Jamal) died of a heart attack at the age of 43 in Beer Sheba prison, this week. He was serving a 20-year sentence for membership in a Palestinian organisation. Abu Jamal's fellow inmates announced after his death, "If appropriate and internationally recognised health care and attention was given to prisoners, a human life could have been saved."

The conditions in which Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are held, and especially the health care given them, has constantly been the subject of complaint and protest through the past 16 years of occupation. Dozens of prisoners have died. Hundreds suffer permanently from rheumatism and arthritis, back pains, ulcers, hemorrhoids, chest pains, aching limbs, toothaches, eye ailments and headaches. Doctors attribute these diseases to the cumulative effects of days, months and years of mistreatment and ill-care by the Israeli prison authorities. Such chronic mistreatment has to be sanctioned by the Israeli government.

The latest and most dramatic recent example of brutality was the spraying of Palestinian women prisoners at Neve Tertza prison with tear gas on October 31. The prisoners themselves said they felt like cockroaches being sprayed to death. A lawyer who visited the prisoners two weeks after the incident became ill after physical contact with a single prisoner in the visitors room.

Despite the exercise of all legitimate means of protest by prisoners and their families, health conditions in Israeli jails continue to deteriorate. All calls by Palestinians and their friends to the Israeli authorities to stop inhumane treatment, whether to individuals or groups of prisoners, have gone in vain. The prison authorities faithfully follow the slogan of their leaders, the most famous of which is Menachem Begin's "Palestinians are no more than two-legged animals."

The shy and secretive intervention of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international bodies concerned with human rights have been so useless that they did not even stir the Israelis to make superficial changes.

There are, in the Geneva Conventions and the UN Human Rights Charter, internationally recognised laws regarding the treatment of prisoners. The deaths of Palestinian prisoners in documented or undocumented circumstances prove that Israel is not applying these regulations.

Palestinian prisoners, their families and fellow citizens call on all humanitarian organisations to act to put an end to this premeditated killing. An international commission to investigate atrocities against prisoners must be set up.

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ISRAELI, AMERICAN AND FRENCH MOVES HAVE PALESTINIAN AND SHI'ITE CIVILIANS FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES

Conditions in Beirut

by Livia Rokach
Our Rome Corespondent

General Angioni, commander of the Italian Multinational Forces in Beirut, refused to disclose the contents of the military summit meeting, held on board the USS Iowa Jima, last week. He would only reveal that as well as his British, French and US counterparts, he was also interrogated by US Congressmen present on board the warship in regards to the predictability of the attack on the Marines base, October 23. Reliable sources, however, say that American commanders are planning to unleash on Beirut's southern neigbourhoods and surrounding hills what they call "a massive and exemplary anti-guerilla operation" directed to "uproot and destroy the batteries, arms and secret bunkers" of the Shi'ite Amal militias and the other resistance groups. The US command, sources say, is presenting its plans to allies as "a limited but efficient surgical strike," not costly in human lives. What they are not explaining is how, against the background of conditions existing in Beirut, this will be done. Observers are calling it a "sheer bluff."

To cite just one detail, in the Hey Sellum neighbourhood, one of the Shi'ite slums targetted for "retaliation," over 60,000 civilians live in an area of no more than 2.5 square kilometres — it is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. The situation is not much different in the rest of the Beirut periphery. It doesn't take much imagination to predict the potential results of the savage eruption into such areas by US Marines and Green Berets on "search and destroy" missions.

Against the background of such fears and tensions it is understandable that many of the Palestinian survivors of last year's Israeli and Phalangist massacres, who until now insisted on remaining in the city despite all difficulties, are now loading their few poor belongings — the usual matresses, bed covers and spoons, and their babies — on the eternal battered cars, hand-pushed carts, or shoulders, in search, once more, of some temporarily safer shelter.

Italian MNF sources confirm renewed mass migration of Palestinians from Beriut and say that their places are almost immediately taken, especially in Shatila camp, by Shi'ite refugee families fleeing from the more directly threatened areas of south Beirut. The population exchange, however, is posing many problems to the remaining camp populaton — about 5000 Palestinians are still in Shatila — and to their protectors, because it facilitates the infiltration into the camps of armed elements whose origin is often unclear and gives rise to serious fears of provocations.

Illustrating this reality was the attempt, or what was described as the attempt, last Friday, November 11, at 5:30 pm, by a Dodge sports car, with two unarmed persons inside, to force its way through the Italian checkpost at the entry to Shatila. Shot at and seriously injured by the soldiers on guard, the two men were handed over to the Lebanese police after first aid treatment on the spot. They were officially identified as Shi'ites by the authorities but disowned by Amal, whose command opened an investigation of the case. The main hypothesis is that "someone" had the intention of testing the efficiency of Italian defence in view of more aggressive future actions. Controversy reigns, however, around the question of who that interested party could be and whether the event was intended to signal a warning to the Italians — the only ones not to have suffered any attacks in recent weeks — that they may not be altogether immune to assaults in the future. More pessimistically, some speculate the attack may have been perpetrated to recruit them in a provocative way to participate in the planned anti-Shi'ite "surgical strike," thus radically changing their present policy of strict adherence to the "peaceful goals" of their force's mission. This last conjecture certainly gains in importance in light of the fact, disclosed last week, that Shi'ite and other resistance combatants wounded in battles and exchanges of fire with the Lebanese Army and Phalangist militias in the area have often been taken to the Italian field hospital in Shatila — a fact certainly not well looked on by the rightist powers and their protectors.

Whatever design was at the origin of the incident, it certainly had the effect of increasing the fears of the Italian soldiers themselves, as well as of the Palestinians still remaining there, that they may, in the case of renewed all-out hostilities in Beirut, find themselves caught in a crossfire from outside and inside the camps.

Completely different are the attitudes and behaviour of the French MNF troops who in the three days before the French strike on the Beqa'a — in coincidence with the escalation of US preparations for the above-described operations — have spilled over from their well-defined sectors to reinforce all the checkpoints and mobile patrols of the Lebanese Army in central Beirut and in practically all the capital's neighbourhoods and in the immediate surroundings. In Hamra, along the Beirut coast road at the crossings between East and West Beirut, jeeps loaded with French Foreign Legion paratroopers — most of them Arabic-speaking African mercenaries from Djibuti, Bangui, or descendents of mixed French-Algerian "pied noir" families — equipped with heavy machine-guns, arrogantly effect sweeps, patrol neighbourhoods, stop cars, examine documents, order arrests, and in short carry out, behind the formal justification of "helping out" the Lebanese Army units always present but judged "too soft," police operations assigned officially to the latter.

On Saturday, November 12, Amin Gemayel descended in person from Ba'abda's presidential palace to visit the "French-Lebanese positions," as they are officially called now in the regime's communiques. On Sunday, no less than 20 such mixed posts could be counted on the Junieh-Khalde road alone. No less significant, although less visible, the same principle now prevails in all Lebanese commands, especially those of the secret services; the Deuxieme Bureau, military intelligence and the political police were all integrated several days ago with officers and "specialists" sent in from Paris to flank the American military advisors already present in the higher echelon operations rooms or to fill in the guide posts where the latter are absent. The French takeover of policing functions in Beirut has the aim, in the opinion of expert observers, of facilitating the job of potential US attackers — first with preventive controls and later by covering their rear during the operations in the mountains and those in Beirut which, needless to say, would be presented as undertaken by the Lebanese Army with the mere "assistance" of the Western powers.

Despite the climate of tension which these developments in rapid succession impose on the population, political commentators and military experts with knowledge of Lebanese realities remain highly sceptical, doubting that a smooth operative cooperation and coordination between the various partners of the MNF is actually possible and predicting that an attempt to carry out war operations on this basis is liable to create a state of suicidal confusion for the seekers of "revenge at all costs." It is difficult to tell if much time is left for such theoretical discussions because in the meantime battles and heavy artillery exchanges are resuming all around the Lebanese capital, from Souq al-Gharb to East Beirut, from Khalde to Eklim al-Kharub.

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

A Middle East Holy Cow?

by A. Yonis

Whatever the final outcome of the military attacks on Nahr al-Bared, Baddawi and Tripoli, it will change international opinions on the Palestinian cause and the Middle East. To quite a few observers it has come as a surprising discovery that Palestinian individuals, who for years have been advocating the independence of their people, as of the majority of their political organisations, have in recent weeks used a lot of energy expressing doubt about actual Syrian involvement in, and responsibility for, atrocities against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians and their defenders in north Lebanon.

Before the atrocities became too obvious, it was argued that the Palestinian rebel forces acted fully on their own, and that the blame for the open armed revolt should be put equally on both sides. The exceptions were a few lone birds who openly and wholeheartedly supported Abu Musa, and thus unilaterally put the blame on Abu Ammar (Yasir Araft). But indeed atrocities there were, and after a while nobody could ignore the facts. Then questions were raised as to whether the Syrians were merely supporting the rebels by providing the arms, or if they were (are) really the steering wheel. Still, there was a chorus of Palestinian voices saying that the role of Syria is so delicately special — "The only Arab state still fighting imperialism and Israel," as many put it — that "it's wrong to put the main emphasis on criticising it," as at least one person told me. What all the voices sang about so loudly was the necessity to stop the fighting and how they all deplored it.

A few days ago, a friend of mine, an experienced, longtime observer of the Middle East and (what used to be known as) the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, came here, almost directly from Tripoli. I gave him my impression that local Palestinians more or less unanimously expected the more sensible side of the conflict to give in, in order to have the atrocities ended. I quoted a person who'd asked: "Why doesn't he (Abu Ammar) get himself out, so the killing of civilians can stop?"

My friend, who had been talking to Abu Ammar during the last few weeks, replied with a short laugh, void of any humour.

"They are fighting with their backs to the wall, to try to defend their lives," he told me, adding: "Maybe it would change the situation if Arafat got out. But to him, this is Beirut one more time. He cannot leave."

From what my friend had seen with his own eyes, he was absolutely convinced that the rebles are mere tools in the very determined hands of rulers following their own interests. He did not see the situation as 'Syria behind one Palestinan faction' but as 'Syria against the Palestinians'. As he saw the situation in Tripoli, departure by Yasir Arafat's forces would mean an end to independent Palestinian struggle. (He's quite sure it would *not* mean an end to struggles and wars in the Middle East).

Really, after listening to his description of the sad state of the struggle, I started to wonder if my Palestinian friends really mean that one of their own parties should stop shooting back when continuously attacked in a most murderous manner?

Even more puzzling it is to report the reaction of a fellow colleague from the local press, when presented with the views of the observer coming out of Tripoli; his reaction is in the disguise of a question:

"Yeah, but did he really see Syrian troops among the attackers? Is he sure that it is the Syrians who really pulled the trigger?"

"What difference does it make?" I surprisedly asked in return. I asked my colleague if he had restrained himself from blaming the Israelis for the Sabra and Shatila massacres, last year, because Israeli fingers had not actually been on the trigger.

I was then told that this analogy is not appropriate since what's going on in Tripoli is a struggle in which both sides are armed. I must admit that I did not find that argument the least puzzling part of our conversation.

I'm not sure if I will be able to stop myself writing a report headlined "Syria, The Holy Cow of Palestine." Also, remembering the name of the city of Hama, I'm not sure whether I should not put into such a report a fourth dimension in an analysis on perceptions of the actual trauma in north Lebanon (as seen from the outside; with the recommended distance to the events). The first three depict the fighting as: a Palestinian-Palestinian confrontation (both parties independent); Palestinian (with Syrian-backing)—Palestinian; and Syrian-Palestinian. The fourth could be Syrian-Syrian. Not that I've forgotten that there's a people called Lebanese; I'm just playing with the thought that Syria is already so influential, and some other Arab participants on the Middle East stage so weak, that all main actors on the Arab side are nothing but marionettes in a Syrian game. Which is, of course, an embarrassing thought for those who don't fully embrace the notion that the whole globe theatre is a puppet theatre with only a couple of manipulators.

"I keep me mouth shut, an' me eyes open," a visitor confided to me some time ago. Which is certainly a praiseworthy tactic, but not very useful for a reporter. There's always the possibility of reversing it, of course, which is what some less honourable international colleagues of mine sometimes seem to do: keep the eyes shut and mouth open. One may simply ignore changes and repeat reports of yester-days and yester-years. I'm afraid that reporting today on an unchanged air of independence among local Palestinians would justify such charges. A wiser way to handle the subject might be to wait and see if there's a Palestinian movement after Tripoli. I admit I'm already convinced that the international perception of the national Palestinian struggle will not remain the same as it was.

A. Yonis is the pseudonym of a foreign correspondent.

The Palestinian Leadership Must Remain Independent

by Said al-Ghazali

The Palestinian people in Tripoli are fighting for survival against Arab regimes which have abondoned their history and their slogans about progress and unity. The regimes seem determined to carry on their bloody plans to destroy and permanently bury the Palestinian cause, regardless of the total support our Palestinian people give to their legitimate leader.

The fighting in Tripoli and Baddawi camp proves that our people is determined to protect its revolution and block attempts by these regimes to split the PLO with their claims that the fighting is between pro- and anti-Yasir Arafat groups. Those who are fighting in Tripoli and Baddawi are not fighting for Arafat or any individual's interests but for the Palestinian revolution, its unity and independence, and the aspirations and ambitions of the Palestinian people.

For whose benefit are thousands of shells and rockets falling on the camps? Who benefits from the killing and wounding of thousands of people? Is the conflict now over leadership?

The Arab regimes have tried for a long time to block or kill any attempt to establish an independent PLO. They tried to sabotage it by creating Palestinian organisations which act as their own agents. Those small organisations were able to take advantage of the liberal democratic structure of the PLO to penetrate it and obstruct its growth and political activities.

In spite of all this, Palestinian unity was re-emphaised again in Palestine National Council resolutions last February. All the Palestinian resistance groups stood behind the PNC and its resolutions in Algiers.

The political decisions made at the PNC meeting were very clear on important controversial issues like confederation with Jordan and the Fez Arab Summit resolutions. The PLO came out of this meeting united behind its political programme. The Palestinian people were releived when they knew this and felt that the PLO had remained strong and united despite all dificulties and that it had avoided affiliation to a single Arab regime.

The reactionary Arab regimes were not satisfied. They tried to kill the PLO from within by someting that is called "a revolutionary or correctional coup." The participants in this "correctional coup" introduced political and non-political conditions and proceeded to attempt to force them on the PLO because, they claim, they are "legitimate, good, and fair demands." The PLO rejected the concept of the use of force to introduce change and supported the principle of democratic dialogue to resolve disputes. Committees were established to mend all fences, but the "rebels" shut their ears and insisted on destroying the military base of the Palestinian forces in the north Lebanon camps.

The reactionary Arab regimes were finally satisfied. They now knew how to destroy the PLO. They claim the issue is an internal power struggle between Arafat's men and Abu Musa's supporters. This is their claim; the reality is different.

Weapons and money fell like rain on the "rebels" from the reactionary regimes. First the rebels took over PLO offices in Damascus and elswhere. Then, with military backing, they captured PLO positions (in the Beqa'a). Now they are shelling Baddawi camp, killing thousands of Palestinians as a result.

But we, supporters of the PLO, would like to make it clear that we do not belong to the Arab rejection camp, which is progressive in name only, or to the reactionary side. We wish to declare that the present fighting in the camps is nothing to be proud of. It is a disgrace to the Arab regimes, the rebels and those who created them.

We also fear the fighting in Tripoli and Baddawi will threaten our existence and Palestinian identity, as well as our dreams and right to self-determination and return to the homelands.

The Double-Vision of Israel's Histadrut

The *Histadrut* is a somewhat schizoid organisation. In the West it portrays itself as a labour union, here it is also a major employer. The new Sheli Party monthly *Ahereth* recently interviewed Ya'acov Cohen, head of the Labour branch's 'Arab department'. *Al Fajr* went to Khalil Touma, member and former chairman of the East Jerusalem Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, to put the record straight. Touma's answers appear in italics.

Q: Do workers from the occupied territories have a union to protect their rights?

A: Actually they have trade unions in Nablus, Ramallah and Gaza. These are trade unions of those labourers who work in the occupied territories, but they do not include those who work in Israel. Workers from the occupied territories who work in (Israel) are also not members of the *Histadrut* because Palestinians are against annexation and therefore do not recognise the union by becoming members. There are 70-75,000 workers involved. The *Histadrut* has demanded since 1968 that the government give these workers rights equal to those of Israelis.

Khalil Touma: *Arab unions are found in all major West Bank cities. There are also union offices in many villages. Many members work in Israel. The Histadrut has tried to control the Arab workers since the first days of the occupation. This is in harmony with both Likud and Labour Party policies. I ask how the Histadrut is really against annexation if at the same time it helps build settlements in occupied Arab land? It is also quite noticeable that inequality and discrimination against Arab workers takes place even in Histadrut businesses. How can the Histadrut demand the Israeli government treat Arab workers equally while it discriminates against them?*

Q: Who, nevertheless, takes care of their rights?

A: In the Workers Councils (the district-level organisation of the *Histadrut* - eds) and in plant committees there is always — we endevour that there should be — at least one member responsible for them. In return for this care, the workers pay one percent of their salaries to the *Histadrut*. This is called an "organisational tax." (There is a legal right for the union that represents the majority of workers in a plant to collect organisational taxes even from workers not organised in it).

Khalil Touma: *The individuals appointed to follow the problems facing Arab workers in Israeli plants are Israelis. Arab workers included on work committes do not attend or participate in these meetings. Neverthless the Arab workers pay organisational taxes which are deducted from their salaries. They get no benefits in return, since the Israeli committee members are not interested in defending Arab workers and do not attempt to guard their rights.*

Q: Are the wages and social benefits for workers from the occupied territories equal to those of the Israeli labourers? Is there any difference between the levels of wages?

A: No, I don't think so. But because of the manner of implementation of wages, pension payments and social benefits, there is a difference. Regular labourers receive these payments (pension, sick leave, recuperation, annual leave, severance pay) through the insurance fund of their union.

For instance, a construction labourer receives these payments through the insurance fund for construction labourers. In comparison with this, a labourer from the occupied territories should receive these benefits from the payments section of the ministry of labour — from the (military) government.

Khalil Touma: *Mr Cohen claims the reason wages are not equal is because workers from the occupied territories do not receive their pay directly from their employers. He hints that the military government makes deductions. It is true that the work departments in the military government make deductions, but the problem is that the salaries themselves are very low, often only 50 percent of those paid to Israeli workers. For example, Arab workers in Israeli restaurants get paid IS9-11,000 a month. Arab workers at Israeli factories in Khan al-Ahmar settlement are still getting IS500-600 a day. This is a far cry from the salary of an Israeli worker. Social benefits which the workers are supposed to get in return for deductions from their salaries do not exist. Arab workers are often fired or let go without proper compensation. I know of cases in which Arab workers have approached Arab unions in order to seek help in cases where they were fired without compensation or they were paid in bad checks. The Arab unions have only one way of defending the rights of workers and that is through the court system. But this method usually takes a long time.*

Palestinian construction workers: paying dues, not receiving benefits.

Q: And does this section pay as it should?

A: This is the problem. Look, the wages are not paid directly to the workers (from the occupied territories) but are transferred to the payments section of the (military) government.

Q: The employer transfers the salaries to this section?

A: Yes. And the payments section is responsible for paying the workers and also for their social benefits. This is organised for the workers through the (military government's) Employment Service Bureaux.

Q: Which employment bureaux?

A: The employment bureaux of the military government — the 'civil administration' today. They are in Gaza, Nablus and Ramallah. Whoever goes there receives a permit from the military government and then they are listed with the payments section.

Q: And labourers without permits can work in the country?

A: Yes, they simply get on the bus and come to the contractor privately. Each contractor or employer should, when paying the payments section, add 25 percent of the salary. The workers come to him and say, "Look, you can save 25 percent of the salary from us if you don't pay us through the 'section.' Give us 10 percent more and both of us will benefit." There are about 20-25,000 non-organised workers out of more than 70,000 labourers. They don't have any rights — no insurance, no pension, nothing. There were already cases of problems. Do you remember the case of the worker in Bat Yam who died? He slept in the house they were building and got up at night ... he didn't see where he was walking and fell four stories.

Khalil Touma: *The main reason why unorganised workers do not go to the labour office is because of their refusal to work with official occupation bodies. They also receive no benefits from the deductions in their salaries.*

Q: Let's go back to the matter of the wage payments and the social benefits — what are the problems now?

A: The *Histadrut* has complained on the subject of the conditions of social insurance to the government and the payments section. Primarily, the way of payment is inefficient and this causes deprivation. For instance, seniority allowances are not paid to the labourers from the occupied territories because they don't have a union of their own.

The payments section doesn't have its men in the plants, so there is nobody who knows the workers and can check seniority. The result is that they don't get allowances. Every worker's request is dragged out for two to two-and-a-half months, while with us it is implemented within a week. For example, if a labourer from the occupied territories submits a request for a recuperation allowance to the section today, the rate is IS1500 per day. After two-and-a-half months an Israeli labourer submits a similar request to the insurance fund of his union, and the rate will already be IS1700 per day: the first receives the allowance at the same time as the second. This creates deprivation.

Because of this the *Histadrut* intends to submit a legal claim against the government that the treatment of workers from the occupied territories be transferred to our insurance funds. We cannot be cheated, and thus it will be more efficient.

Q: Cannot be cheated in what?

A: For instance, today the employers don't inform the payments section about the exact number of workers because they also have non-organised labourers. Besides this, the UN International Labour Organisation discusses the subject of the workers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip every year. Every year they send a special commission to examine their situation and social benefits. The commission that was here last year explicitly recommended this section of workers be transferred to the *Histadrut*.

(Translation: Ahereth, September 1983)

Khalil Touma: *We reject the recommendation of the general director of the International Labour Office in Geneva regarding the transfer of the responsibility for Arab workers in the occupied territories to the Histadrut. We feel such a move has the meaning of annexation. The only representative of Arab workers is the Federation of Arab Workers Unions. This recommendation, if implemented, would pave the way for a transfer of wide-ranging authority to the Histadrut to organise Arab workers in the occupied territories. We feel that this recommendation did not take the opinions of the Arab unions or the Arab population into account. Neither did it consider its inherent political considerations and implications.*

The Israeli State Comptroller's report, published at the end of October, had a section on social benefits paid to workers from the occupied territories. According to *Al Hamishmar*, November 1, the comptroller, Israel's state watchdog, complains that neither interest nor linkage is paid on the payments even for rights reaching back to 1970. "The actual value of these social benefits is indeed nothing," stated the comptroller.

PALESTINIANS SOUTH OF THE BORDER: CANADA CAMP RESIDENTS BEHIND BARBED WIRE

Remember Rafah? After a brief moment in April 1982, when the world turned its eyes on the border towrl to witness its dismemberment for the new Camp David Egypt-Israel border, it was forgotten. Now the promises made to residents at that time are as yellowed as the news photos, Nidal Samed found on a recent return visit. Residents of Rafah are now subjects of two enemies and have only the next spin of the international wheel of fortune to look to for respite.

"I just want to say one thing about life in Canada camp *," exclaims 40-year-old Khadija, "it's like living in a prison under pressure and one day there might be an explosion." Khadija is one of the 5500 Palestinian refugees living on the Egyptian side of Rafah (Rafah-Sinai) in a camp 20 metres from the electrified barbed wire wall that severed them from the Palestinian side of town (Rafah-Falastin) when Rafah-Sinai was returned to its Egyptian owners on April 25, 1982. Neither welcomed by the Egyptian regime nor allowed back to Rafah-Falastin by the Israeli military authorities, the camp's population has lived through the last 20 months of political uncertainty on a tether. So close, physically, but so far, legally, from their family members and former sources of employment on the other side of the 'Camp David peace fence,' their hope of returning soon to Palestine has all but vanished. Two years ago they were promised by the Israelis that they would be moved into the Tel al-Sultan housing project in Rafah-Falastin with compensation. Now, they hear nothing.

Palestinian families of Rafah-Falastin, controlled by the Israelis, scream personal messages to relatives and friends on the Egyptian side of town. The so-called "Camp David peace fence" separated families, cut off workers from their jobs and caused severe health and educational heardships. Unemployment has forced many to seek other sources of income, such as setting up house-front stalls./POP photos

History

The problem of Canada camp residents (and of several thousand Palestinian Beduin refugees originally from Beer Sheba) is unique in Palestinian history. They were not chased across an impenetrable border but ended up there *de facto* when a security fence was placed in their back yards, cutting them off from the rest of the Gaza Strip.

Originally inhabitants of the since destroyed southern Palestinian villages between Jaffa and Majdal, the 'Canada' Palestinians were among those who settled in UNRWA camps in Rafah-Falastin after the 1948 exodus. In 1971-72, their homes were swept to rubble in Ariel Sharon's 'security road' bulldozing operations and Israeli authorities sent them to live on a 250-dunum site of land confiscated from a Palestinian landowner in Rafah-Sinai.

Most, subsequently, added onto the small two-to-three-room shacks they were given as 'compensation,' though none imagined that they would one day be stranded here, unable to cross to the other side of town and into the rest of Palestine.

The security zone that now separates Rafah-Sinai from Rafah-Falastin runs along an international border demarcated in 1906 by a British-Turkish agreement, at a time when there were few residents in this oasis town. When the Israeli authorities cut the 100-metre strip through the center of town in spring 1982, they destroyed over 200 Palestinian homes and many dunums of fruit orchards for which little, if any, compensation was paid. When the 1906 agreement was signed, it was understood that there should always be free access between the two sides of town for local residents. During the Israeli occupation of Gaza Strip and North Sinai, the only evidence of a border was a historic pole in the middle of an orange grove.

When Israel and Egypt negotiated their mutual borders through the Camp David accords, there remained several points of contention, including how to set up a border through the center of Rafah that would satisfy the Israeli government's 'security' demands while retaining access for people with families and work on the two sides of town. Then Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali reached an agreement that, according to a *Jerusalem Post* front page article (March 9, 1982), "should solve the human aspects of the Rafah problem... Arrangements will be made whereby registered inhabitants of the town on either side will be able to pass through to their families and fields with minimal problems."

Instead, the human problems multiplied: installation of the border zone has caused separation of families, unemployment and created educational and medical problems. The Egyptian authorities refuse to absorb the Palestinians and the Israelis, so far, refuse to let them return.

Families

The touching scene of parents and children, husbands and wives, screaming personal messages past Egyptian and Israeli military personnel and through barbed wire fences, at a 100 metres distance, gives only a symbolic impression of the anxiety felt by the people inside Canada camp. Those that have been allowed back — mainly women and children — and have crossed the border on one-month visit permits, describe the difficulties of the journey. "First a member of our immediate family must request the pass and pay IS2300 and then the request is submitted to the Israeli intelligence service for approval," says Khadija. "Then when we cross the border to Rafah-Falastin — which is actually only a one-minute walk away — we must go through hours of waiting, searching and interrogating by Egyptian and Israeli security forces. The journey is difficult and expensive." (Total border crossing fees to Israel and Egypt total about US$30).

Employment

The widespread lack of employment is obvious in the camp. Young men in groups lean against their homes, stroll through the streets and play *shesh-besh* in the middle of the work week. Until April 1982, most families in this camp, like those in the rest of the Gaza Strip, depended heavily on the income of their sons working in Israel. It has become more difficult in recent years for Palestinians to find work in the Gulf states.

The 10 percent of the work force previously employed by UNRWA or in government services in Gaza Strip are the only employees who can still depend on regular work. UNRWA pays the salaries of former teachers and school supervisors, who are now all working in the camp in a school rented from the Egyptian government. Eight sanitation workers are also employed in the camp. Two kindergarten teachers, formerly employed in Rafah-Falastin, last month opened a new kindergarten in the camp, with cooperation from the community.

The Israeli authorities have given most government employees (nurses, teachers, pharmacists, municipal workers) special permission to cross the border once weekly to continue working in their jobs. Some stay with relatives during their six-day week in the Strip, while others have rented flats. Their special crossing passes are good for travel within Gaza only.

Most labourers and recent university graduates are unemployed. A few have become small shopkeepers, evidenced by the shiny aluminium-sided stalls in the new fruit and vegetable market set-up by the local community or in the brisk house-front *falafel* and *sahlab* trade that has become a hallmark of life in the camp. Some labourers have found temporary jobs in the local north Sinai construction boom (housing and offices for Egyptian government employees), but employment priority is given to Egyptians. Others cross into Rafah-Falastin on one-month passes to seek work on the black market.

Because of the dire economic situation, women have started contributing more to their families' economic survival. Aside from the few that feed their children from work as school teachers, as many as an estimated one-third of camp families now depend on the meager earnings of what they call "market women." These are the dozens of women who can be seen daily lugging cartons of Egyptian goods across the border to Gaza and vice-versa, protesting to customs officials on both sides that the goods are for personal use only. This petty commodity trade alone does not sustain the families, who also depend on the food rations that UNRWA has approved for over 80 percent of camp residents.

The case of Abu X illustrates some aspects of the employment situation: "I am a government employee but it has become difficult to make ends meet. Because of the border problem, it's like I'm spending on three families. I have to pay the tuition and expenses of my son enrolled in a West Bank university for 12 months a year because he isn't allowed back in the summer, for the rent of my apartment in Gaza and for the expenses of the rest of my children and wife in Canada camp. Each week when I come home, I also pay the IS650 exit fee to the Israeli border officials. My eldest son graudated from the Gaza Teacher Training Institute two years ago and has no work now.

"But I feel my situation is better than that of my brother. He was caught in Rafah-Falastin when the border was sealed and he stayed there working as a driver, sending money home to his family. Their social situation is not good and I am now responsible for that family as well.

"Having our old ID is like having no ID. Wherever we are, we are strangers — whether in Rafah, in Egypt, or in Lebanon, it's all the same."

Education

There are three shifts at the local school: 640 preparatory students in the morning, 575 elementary students in the afternoon and 122 secondary students, evenings. Most of the classrooms are overcrowded; it's common to have 70 students in the elementary and preparatory classrooms and three classes study in the open air. "In 1948 they brought us tents at least," says one eighth grade girl. "What will happen when the winter rains start?" she asks.

The secondary students began classes in early November and have already missed several days due to the almost daily power blackouts in the camp. When the two sides of Rafah were split, the Israeli authorities ripped out the electricity lines from their side and the Egyptians installed new generators, which still do not function at the same standard.

But those students who will graduate this year are more anxious about their futures than about such immediate problems. Most graduates of the classes of '82 and '83 were not able to pursue post-secondary educations. The Egyptian universities stopped admitting Palestinian students five years ago and the Israeli authorities do not allow Canada residents to study at institutions in the occupied territories.

Students who were enrolled in West Bank or Gaza institutions before April 1982, however, have been allowed to continue, but on condition that they do not return home for visits. Their status in the occupied territories, moreover, is somewhat shaky. Travelling with invalidated ID cards, they are subject to greater scrutiny at roadblocks and several have been arrested for short periods.

Medicine

The lack of medical facilities is another issue for the 504 Canada camp families. The local Egyptian government clinic does not dispense medicine and there are no doctors on duty in the evenings. No doctor lives in the camp, although a midwife has opened a primitive clinic visited half-a-day biweekly by a doctor from Gaza; and the nearest hospital is in El Arish, 50 kilometres away. There is no health insurance and many people cannot afford the money for drugs. Those on visits in Gaza are not served in Gaza's hospitals because they no longer have valid ID cards.

Response

Uncertainty of their ultimate fate has provoked different reactions among the community. Some admit they are now without hope that they'll ever be able to return to live in Palestine, while others say they still feel they're in a state of limbo. Despite this overall depressing atmosphere, residents stress that there is a high level of community cooperation. They cite the building of the kindergarten by voluntary work and the collection of a donation for the most needy families as two examples.

Like this kindergarten, Canada Camp schools are overcrowded and lacking in facilities. Because of the dire economic situation, women have begun to contribute more to their families' income. The women below have set up shop in the open air outside their home./POP photos

Canada camp residents know their situation is not high on any government's list of priorities. "The Egyptians have larger problems than to worry about us and the Israelis are glad to get rid of an extra 500 Palestinian families," sighs Um A. "That's the problem we're up against. We used to wait expectantly for our camp representatives to return from visits with Egyptian officials in El Arish to see if there was any news, but nothing came out of the visits."

The only hope that pierces through what Abu F describes as "suffocation" stems from occasional "newspaper articles or TV announcements... We read in the Egyptian newspapers, for example, that President Mubarak discussed the situation when he visited President Reagan about a month ago." Last week an afternoon radio broadcast reporting that Kamal Hassan Ali was coming to Israel to negotiate border issues raised old hopes.

Most people are afraid to demonstrate their common complaints about their own situation in public, they say. Though Palestinian slogans and flags drawn on school walls 20 months ago remain, students have never turned out in a demonstration during that time. Though Tripoli and Beirut are integral parts of household conversation, students did not go on strike last week as did those throughout the occupied territories.

The people in Canada camp are obviously sensitive to what it means living in a border zone. "We are brothers with the Egyptian people, but the Egyptian government has a peace treaty with the Israelis and doesn't want trouble on their border," explains Um A. "If there was trouble in the school, the Egyptians would imprison the director, and we would never know where. We have no trouble from the soldiers on border duty, but the town is full of *mukhabarat* (security service officers) sauntering around in *jalabiyaat* with guns bulging out of their pockets." She does recall one attempt at a demonstration this summer: "During the *id* (feast), leaflets were circulated calling for a demonstration against our conditions here, but nothing happened. The Egyptian security found out about it and sent the army to surround the mosque after Friday prayers," she said.

South of the border in Rafah-Sinai, return to Palestine (scribbled on this Canada Camp wall) remains the only solution to the problems of employment, education and medicine./POP photo

Hope for the Future

Khadija is not an especially militant person, but she sees the only way out of this prison-like existence in the return to Palestine. To her, the problems of employment, education and medicine are secondary. But, she says, "where can we bring our requests? We are not recognised nationally or internationally." And she doubts that anyone besides her relatives even cares about the situation of Canada camp Palestinians.

Last year, Um A, like many other camp residents, sold half of her furniture to Egyptians when she thought the Palestinians were on the verge of moving back to Rafah-Falastin. "The Egyptians came and recorded the state of our houses and we assumed we'd soon be moving to Tel al-Sultan, the Israeli housing project in Rafah-Falastin, as the Israelis promised us two years ago, but nothing happened." Abu F adds the most optimistic note that anyone expressed: "We hope there will be a political solution, but it might take a long time."

*Canada camp — as it came to be known popularly — was named by local residents after the Canadian UNEF battalion stationed in Rafah in 1956.

How does a people without a government care for its sick, homeless, elderly and handicapped? On the West Bank the answer has been through an increasingly sophisticated network of local and international charitable institutions. Daoud Kuttab of *Al Fajr* visited the graduation ceremony of the first in-service course for teachers of the handicapped, while Maher Abukhater dropped in on children's homes to see for himself the heart-rending conditions and the dedication of the staff.

Training Teachers for the Handicapped

A unique graduation ceremony for the West Bank's first cadre of handicapped teachers went almost unnoticed except for brief coverage in the local press. The ceremony, which took place at al-Nahda Women's Association Centre for Handicapped Children, November 3, celebrated the graduation of 25 West Bank and Gaza workers in centres for the handicapped who completed their two-year course in teaching mentally retarded children. The two main speakers for the event, deposed Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf and Chairman of the West Bank Charitable Associations Dr Amin Khatib, were barred by the Israeli authorities from attending the graduation and had to send delegates to speak at the ceremony.

The two-year course, the first of its kind in the West Bank and Gaza, was taught in two stages, al-Nahda officials explained. An extensive residential session was held in Ramallah during the summer of 1982 followed by a day-course, held on Fridays through the '82-'83 academic year. To qualify for the course, the students had to be employed at a centre for the handicapped in the West Bank. Workers from all 10 West Bank centres and one from the Gaza Strip were given theoretical and practical courses in special education and care of mentally handicapped children. The course was supervised by Bethlehem University lecturer Munir Rafidi and was sponsored by the Swedish Free Church Society. The course was free.

One of the graduates of the course, Daoud Ahmad Ibrahim, praised the course, describing it as "of high quality and practical for our work with the retarded." Ibrahim, who works at the Swedish Institute for the Mentally Retarded in Jerusalem, explained that among the most prominent subjects which were of benefit to him were courses on methods of teaching the retarded and on the reasons for retardation. Some of the other courses taught during the two-year programme were: teaching the mentally handicapped in Arabic, maths, and English and how to diagnose mentally handicapped children.

Handicapped youth at work in al-Nahda classroom: finding ways of helping those with special needs.

Ibrahim complained, however, that the grading and evaluation system used by the administrators of the course was not equitable.

Al-Nahda

Al-Nahda Women's Association was established in 1925 to provide vocational training, care for the sick and handicapped, projects to fight illiteracy, nutritional advice, aid for prisoners, university grants and financial grants to the needy in Palestine.

Their centre for the mentally handicapped, the association's most ambitious project, was built in 1980. Nadia Tarazi, who runs the centre, described the work: "As far as our centre is concerned, we aim to provide the best possible care for these children according to our budgets." Tarazi says the major problems facing their centre are the lack of telephone and transportation: "We submitted an application for a telephone even before the building was built but to no avail." Tarazi expressed fear that lack of communication could prove fatal in case of an emergency.

Nadia Tarazi said many mentally retarded children in the occupied territories are not getting any kind of proper care. She points out that al-Nahda's centre for the handicapped takes only 45 children from Ramallah and surrounding villages. The centre's bus picks up and drops off the children from Ramallah and seven neighbouring villages. "We help just a small group of the mentally retarded if you realise that there are about 100 villages in the district of Ramallah and we can only reach seven," complained Tarazi.

Al-Nahda centre, which is considered by professionals to be the best in the West Bank, spends an estimated JD352 a year for every child that it accepts. Teachers and directors from other centres in the West Bank and Gaza periodically visit to study the latest techniques of teaching the mentally handicapped. It was after the many visits of colleagues that Nadia Tarazi and her staff realised the need for a more organised system for spreading the information they had. "We have always had a policy of collective sharing. Whenever we could be of help we did not hestitate," she said.

The Ramallah centre started a lecture series and then held small seminars for workers in centres for the handicapped. It was from these initiatives that the two-year course grew.

At present the centre's staff is researching the possibility of cooperation with a local Palestinian university to provide special education courses or possibly a diploma or BA degree programme.

West Bank Overview

The problem of the handicapped in the West Bank has not received any military attention, according to experts in the field. Private research by Dr Diab Ayoushi revealed that there are 18,000 physically and mentally handicapped people in the West Bank. Only about 400 of these are registered at 13 West Bank centres. Na'ela Rabah, a Ramallah social worker working at al-Nahda's centre, notes the lack of specialists — clinical psychologists, physical and speech therapists, as well as special education experts — in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

With the Israelis not meeting their legal responsibilities as laid down in the Geneva Conventions, foreign charities are filling in, the experts say. Al-Nahda officials say the Swedish Free Church Society, the US Community Development Foundation, Britain's OXFAM and the Bible Land Society all sponsor centres for the handicapped.

Nadia Tarazi, the centre's director, emphasised the continued need for the centre and others like it in the West Bank to receive all the help it can get from individuals and groups. "With the absence of a government that is interested in our well-being, we mustn't stop trying to find ways of helping those who need special concern," Tarazi concluded.

Dedicated Care in Bethany

(The names of the children have been changed)

Ibrahim is nine years old. His father died when he was a baby and he doesn't remember him. His mother works in a hospital to support him, his three sisters and an 11-year-old brother. Ibrahim wants to work in an office when he grows up.

Michel is five years old. Both his parents were killed in a traffic accident this summer, leaving behind three very young children. In spite of his young age, Michel can speak French and English as well as his native Arabic. With tears in his eyes and a look of fear for his uncertain future, Michel says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up, so that he can help people.

Ibrahim and Michel represent the many unwanted or socially deprived Palestinian children. Their stories are like those of many very young children who have lost one or both parents and who have no relatives ready to take them in. They are among 56 other boys of similar age, all boarders at a French convent known as Sisters of Charity in al-Shayyah, a suburb of Bethany.

But even Ibrahim and Michel are luckier than many other children at the nearby Four Homes of Mercy, a purely Palestinian institution. This home takes in children of all ages. They are severely physically or mentally handicapped — many are both. A tour of the Four Homes of Mercy is a moving experience. It reveals more about human agony and life's often cruel reality than one can ever imagine. Seeing children unable to talk, hear, walk, understand or even use their arms, moves emotions one never knew existed. The Four Homes of Mercy, like its counterpart Sisters of Charity, was established by individuals who saw children like theirs and others in need of help, shelter, love and caring.

The Sisters of Charity came to Bethany in 1948. Before their move they operated from another location in Mamilla, West Jerusalem. But the 1948 war forced them to leave, like thousands of Palestinians, to a new refuge. In Bethany they continued their mission — to take orphaned or deserted children, teach them, feed them, care for them and love them, until they are old enough to be wanted again.

Many of the children are like Ibrahim and Michel. They have either lost one or both parents, are victims of divorce, or, in some cases, have parents who are unable to care for them.

The Sisters of Charity is run by a French nun, Sister Christine. She, along with five Italian nuns, cares for almost 70 children a year. So far this year they have only 56. All the children are between the ages of 4 and 13. The nuns take in children who have some social problems and who are young enough to start with a first grade education. If room is available, in exceptional cases they may take in older children, but never more than 13 years old. The children get room and board and are daily taken to French-run schools in East Jerusalem. When they grow older they have to leave the home. Most are taken back by their families, or relatives in the case of orphans. In a few cases children are cared for at the home until they are old enough to live alone.

The Four Homes of Mercy is somewhat different. It goes beyond taking in children who are socially deprived; they accept handicapped and retarded individuals of all ages, as well as the unwanted elderly. The Four Homes include the Home for the Aged, the Crippled Children's Home, St. Mary's Home For Children and St. Mary's Maternity Hospital. The first three homes form what is known as *malja* (shelter), located in Bethany overlooking the barren Jericho mountains. The maternity hospital is in Beit Jala.

The Homes were started in 1940 by a young Arab woman, Katherine Siksek, working with the Red Cross; but it wasn't until 1961 that the fourth home was finished. Katherine Siksek's daughter, Henrieta Siksek Farraj, has taken over the shelter, and is now the honorary secretary of the executive committee.

This and the general committee are both composed of women only. Many of them volunteer in many different activities, but most importantly their efforts are spent in rehabilitating the handicapped and retarded. They also work with the aged who have no one to care for them.

Most of the cases at the shelter are severely handicapped, according to shelter officials. The shelter patients are either congenitally retarded or handicapped or suffered early childhood illnesses. A few cases were caused by accidents. Yet in spite of the severity of the handicaps, the staff exert tremendous efforts to develop their charges. Children showing signs of intelligence by responding to stimuli in early tests are immediately put in a special school at the shelter where several patient Palestinian women work very hard on developing their abilities.

For the outsider, the children seem beyond hope; but for the women working with them, there is always hope. Their faith in the crippled children is tremendous. They go by a wise saying heard at the Homes: "If you have a load to carry, then carry it well. If you can't, then ask others to help you. If they can't, ask God to help." Through faith, hard work and patience, near miracles, or so it seems to the lay person, are

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On October 25 elections took place in 46 Arab communities, including the two Arab cities of Nazareth and Shafa 'Amr. Four Arab local councils — Kufr Kanna, Maghar, Iblin, and Beqa'a — will have elections next year.

There are 146 Arab communities inside Israel. The communities which did not have elections are communities that are annexed to Jewish regional councils. According to Dr Meir Shaham, head of the elections council, these communities have elections at different times. Dr Shaham told *Al Fajr* that he is aware of only one Arab member in all of the Jewish regional councils in the Galilee. Below, the final results of the elections.

FINAL RESULTS OF COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Israeli Communist Party-backed Democratic Front for Peace and Equality ran in most villages; the progressive nationalist Abna' al-Balad ran in some villages and there were a few other independent lists.

About 65 percent of the total lists were financed by the Israeli Labour Party and some others took other Zionist party affiliation either directly or under a *hamula* title — hence the plethora of meaningless titles and abbreviations.

NAZARETH

Mayor: Tawfiq Ziad (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 11, The Progressive movement — 4, The Salvation of Nazareth — 1, NRP — 1, Mapam — 1.

ACRE

A predominantly Israeli municipality council: DFPE — 2.

HAIFA

A predominantly Israeli municipality: DFPE — 1.

JAFFA — TEL AVIV

(An almost totally Israeli town); the DFPE did not receive enough votes for one seat.

SHAFA 'AMR

Mayor: Ibrahim Nimr Hussein (Independent) *hamulas*; Council: DFPE — 2, Cooperation — 4, Brotherhood — 2, Renaissance and Progression — 2.

LYDDA

(Palestinians make up about one-seventh of the population). The DFPE did not get enough votes for one seat.

RAMLE

The DFPE did not poll the required number of votes for a seat.

IKSSAL

Mayor: Saleh Yahya Darawshe (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 3, the remaining 5 seats went to three hamula lists.

UM AL-FAHM

Mayor: Hashem Mohammed (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 3, Abna' al-Balad - 1, Ansar Front — 1, Nahda — 2, Unity of Reform — 2, Progressive Front — 2, Progress and Work — 1, Um al-Nur — 1, Ahram — 1, Equality — 1.

BEIT JANN

Mayor: Shafiq Assa'ad (Democratic Movement for Change); Council: DFPE — 2, from 9 seats.

MASH'HAD

Mayor: Yousef Marra'a (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 2, Mash'had Youth — 2, Victory and Progress — 3, N.G. — 1, Work and Agriculture — 2, Progression and Brotherhood — 1.

SAKHNIN

Mayor: Mohammed Khanayyem *(hamula* list); Council: DFPE — 5, Progress and Rehabilitation — 3, al-Burhan (The Proof) — 2, The Reform List — 1.

AILABOUN

Mayor: Yousef Srour (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 4; M.Kh. — 2, M.T. — 1.

KUFR YASSIF

Mayor: Nimr Mucus (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 4, Brotherhood and Friendship — 2, Kufr Yassif Popular Front — 1, Islamic Progressive List — 2, Reform — 1.

KUFR QARA'A

Mayor: Muhammed Mussarwi *(hamula)*; Council: Communist Party — 2, Justice — 1, Nahda — 2, Nur — 2, Peace — 1, Reform — 1.

KUFR MANDA

Mayor: Taha Abd al-Halim (Zionist-backed *hamula* list); Council: Workers and Farmers — 4, Independent Liberals — 1, Abundance and Reform — 4, Abd al-Halim List — 4, DFPE — 4, LA — 1.

MAJD AL-KURUM

Mayor: Mohammed Manna'a (DFPE); Council: F. List — 2, A List — 1, A.T. — 1.

MA'ILIYYA

Mayor: Hanna Shoufani *(hamula)*; Council: Ten lists, among them was DFPE which did not win any seat, ran for the election. All the other lists including Abna' al-Balad won one seat each.

KABUL

Mayor: Jamal Taha (Independent); Council: DFPE - 3, Progressive Front — 2, Commitment — 1, Victory — 2, Unity — 1.

KUFR QASSEM

Mayor: Assa Abd al-Rahim *(hamula)*; Council: The Islamic list Huda — 3, Nahda — 2, Future — 1, Hady — 1, Building and Development — 2.

KUFR BARRA

The candidate of the "Muslim Youths" list won the mayoral post:

Mayor: Kamal Rayan.

BAQA AL-GHARBIYYA

Mayor: Samir Darwish; Council: DFPE — 1.

JULIUS

Not completed yet.

ARRABEH

Mayor: Muhammed Ibri Nassar (DFPE); Front — 4, Progress and Brotherhood — 1.

AR'ARA

Mayor: Muhammed Yunis (DFPE-backed); Council: DFPE — 2, Solidarity — 2, Peace — 1, Crescent — 1, al-Safa — 1, Hope and Reform — 1, Brotherhood — 1, al-Halal — 1, Happiness — 1.

AIN MAHEL

Mayor: Ahmad Abu Leil *(hamula* list); Council: DFPE — 1, Friendship — 2, The Unity of Ain Mahel — 5, Success — 1.

FASSOUTA

Mayor: Wadee'a Asi *(hamula* list); Council: The DFPE lost its only seat as it was not running.

QALANSAWA

Mayor: Hassan Abd al-Fattah (DFPE-backed); Council: DFPE — 2, The Future — 2, Equality — 2, Counselling — 1, The Peace — 1, Life — 1.

FRIDES

Mayor: Abdallah Ra'oof *(hamula)*; Council: Culture and Belief — 4, Change List — 4, Development and Progress — 2.

JATT

Mayor: Ahmad Abu Usba (Labour Alignment).

DALIAT AL-KARMEL

Mayor: Nawaf Halabi *(hamula)*; Council: Labour Alignment — 4, Likud — 2, Brotherhood and Love — 2, Change — 1.

DEIR AL-ASSAD

Mayor: Ahmad Amour *(hamula)*; Council: The Deir al-Assad Progressive Movement — 4, Reform — 2, Amendment and Development — 1, Truth — 1, Peace — 1.

DABBORIYYA

Mayor: Assad Azayzi (Zionist-backed); Council: DFPE — 1, Abna' al-Balad — 1, and the remaining seven seats were distributed among six *hamula* lists.

DEIR HANNA

Mayor Raja Khatib (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 6, the Unity of the Sons of the Country list (Independent) — 3.

MAKR

Mayor: Mahmoud Saleh Khalil (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 2, Mashad Youth — 2, Victory and Openness — 3, Progression Council: DFPE — 4, United Arabbeh and Brotherhood — 1, Progression and Openness — 1, Work and Agriculture — 1.

ISSIFIYA

Mayor: Raslan Abu Rakhim; Council: Labour Alignment — 1, National Religious Party — 1, Change — 1, Safa — 1, Equality — 1, Progression and Development — 1, Cooperation and Development — 1, Brotherhood and Peace — 1, Labour and Farming — 1.

TIRA

Mayor: Tariq Abd al-Itayya (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 1, Cooperation and Brotherhood — 2, The Democratic List — 2, SA — 1, Equality List — 1, F. List — 1, The Future List — 1, The Victory List — 1, Nasser — 1, Peace — 1, Future — 1, Faditeh — 1.

TURA'AN

Mayor: Yunis Nassar (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 3, Brotherhood List — 2, Development and Brotherhood — 1, Equality — 1, Cooperation — 1, Reform and Brotherhood - 1.

YAFT AL-NASRAH

Mayor: Assa'ad Yusef Kahani (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 5, Progress and Development — 2, Independence and Neutrality — 1, The Light — 1.

JADEDA

Mayor: Afif Kayyal (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 4, the remaining five seats were distributed among three *hamula* lists.

JISR AL-ZARQA

Mayor: Murad Ammash (Labour Alignment).

AL-JISH

Mayor: Zaki Jubran *(hamula)*.

REINI

Mayor: Hassan Mahmoud (DFPE); Council: DFPE — 3, A.M.T. — 2, S. Sh. — 2, R. — 1, A. — 1.

RAMEH

Mayor: Elias Qasis.

BI'NA

Mayor. Ali Gassim *(hamula)*; Council: DFPE — 3; hamula lists: Change — 3, Victory — 2, Brotherhood and Solidarity — 1.

HORFEISH

Mayor: Marzouq Amer *(hamula)*.

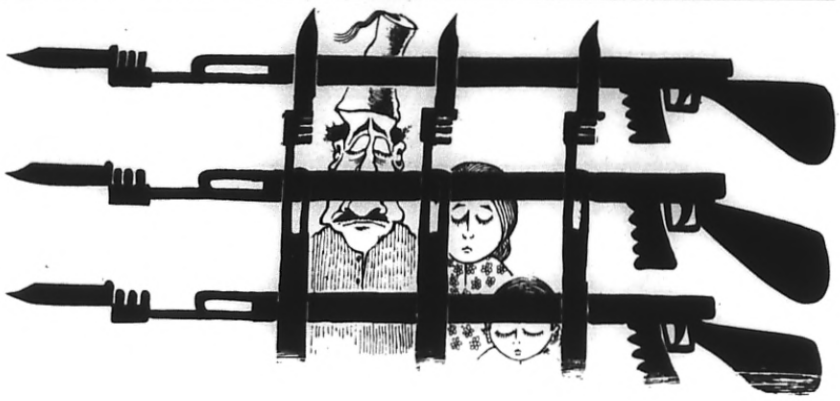
TAIBEH

Mayor: Abd al-Latif Habib (DFPE-backed independent); Council: DFPE - 1, Taibeh — 3, The Unified List — 4, The Struggle of Taibeh — 2, al-Nahda — 1, Cooperation and Brotherhood — 1, al-Huda and al-Nur — 1.

NAHAF

Mayor: Ahmad Abass.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The fighting in the Tripoli area was again top news all week in local Palestinian papers. All three dailies ran photographs, lead stories, editorials and background features on the fighting.

Editorially, **Al Fajr, Al Shaab** and **Al Quds** blamed the clashes on Syria, Libya and the Fatah rebels. **Al Mithaq** biweekly described the events as "internal Palestinian fighting." All newspapers were united in their calls for an end to the bloodshed.

The main local story was Israel's plan to liquidate Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and the local rejection of it.

The Reality and the Dream

The Israeli raid on the Beqa'a is possibly one of the phases for increased strategic cooperation between the US and Israel. Donald Rumsfeld's trip to Israel, Jordan and Lebanon indicates that the American envoy is going beyond the Shultz agreement on Lebanon in order to find acceptance for Reagan's initiative on the Palestinian issue.

During the same period, Shultz and other imperialists were competing in issuing statements predicting the end of the PLO, saying that time is ripe now to revive the Camp David agreements, with Jordanian participation. At the same time, Israeli military officials are talking about the "shock syndrome" and ways to "solve" the problem of the camps under the pretext of "remodeling" them.

There is no doubt that those who are suggesting these plans are depending on the continued fighting in Tripoli and what will result from it.

But this will not be the first time these plans will have erred. Arens' predecessor, Sharon, thought the same thing during his invasion of Lebanon but nothing developed. The coming days will prove that the Palestinian people will hold on to their right for self-determination.

AL TALIA
November 17

The Price of Division

It has been clear since the divisions started in Fatah last May and took on a bloody shape that this coup was spreading like a cancer in the Palestinian body and threatening to destroy all the political and military gains the Palestinians have achieved through the PLO.

Then came the destructive war waged by the separatists with full Syrian and Libyan backing to strike very hard at the Palestinian people and to retard the Palestinian cause at all levels. This has brought destruction and killing and taken a heavy toll on our own Palestinian people in men and potential, particularly at the military level.

On the political level, this war tore the Palestinian body apart. Some Arab countries exploited this division to hit the PLO. The separatists became a tool in the hands of these countries, paticularly Syria and Libya, to achieve their interests even if they do not agree with Palestinian interests.

On the international level, there is no doubt the bright picture the world painted for the Palestinian people and the PLO, particularly after the battle of Beirut, has been tarnished now. All the political gains the PLO achieved at the international level, when it won more recognition — 40 more states — than Israel, are now being threatened. Europe's recent threats that it will close the PLO offices if the rebels take over is an indication of this.

One can question therefore what the separatists have accomplished for the Palestinian people after all these losses. Have they moved one step closer to enforcing their alleged "reforms"? Does the road to "democratic reforms" go through the bodies of children, women and old people, and through destruction and killing in the Palestinian camps?

The separatists, who sold themselves to others and put their cards in the hands of the Syrian regime to be used as it wishes at the expense of our children's blood, will learn sooner or later that they have committed a grave crime against their people.

AL FAJR
November 18

Message from Nahr al-Bared

Many reports came in yesterday from north Lebanon about the attacks on the Palestinian people. Here are some of them:

— At Nahr al-Bared, thousands of Palestinians demonstrated carrying pictures of Yasir Arafat and chanting slogans in the presence of foreign press brought in by the Syrian and dissident forces in order to persuade the world that the Palestinian people had given up on its leadership. But the demonstration that came from the camp proved their strong links to the legitimate representatives, forcing those who took it upon themselves to become puppets in the hands of other regimes to run away in the face of the angry Palestinian crowd.

— In Tripoli, seven Syrian soldiers captured yesterday said "we don't know why we were brought here... we were brought here by force to fight." We are certain they are honest and that they, like many others of the Syrian people, refuse to follow Hafez al-Assad, who wants to massacre our people with Syrian and Arab hands.

— In Tripoli, several Palestinian loyalists as well as rebels, Syrian and Libyan soldiers laid together in adjacent beds in hospitals. This is what Assad wants. In order for him to control our independence, he has worked hard to involve his people in doing his dirty bloody work.

Three scenes give one message — the Palestinian people refuse guardianship and refuse to abandon their organisation, revolution and leadership.

AL SHAAB
November 19

The Occupation Exposes Itself

The Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank said yesterday they had captured the person who killed the settler Aharon Gross (in Hebron, early July). They claimed the arrested person confessed and that they found Gross's submachine gun.

Spokesmen for the occupation did not try to hide their pride in the success. The truth of the matter is that this development actually exposes the reality of the occupation force to the public. We mean the Israeli "ineptness" in uncovering those who attempted to murder Mayors Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim Tawil and the murder of Emile Greenzweig during a Peace Now demonstration in Jerusalem.

We wonder: if the Israeli intelligence is powerful enough to find the killer of Aharon Gross, why is it so "weak" that it is not yet able to find the other murderers?

But we are not so naive as to ask this question seriously. It was reported at the time that "influential political personalities" intervened to block attempts to arrest the perpetrators of the mayors incident. At that time, democratic Jewish and Arab public opinion pointed an accusing finger at the occupation forces and its racist settlements. More than this we have, and still are, accusing the ruling party of not taking seriously investigations to expose the killer of Greenzweig.

The racist settlers in the occupied territories are officially recognised as part of the occupation, with the right to carry arms. They were also given the "legal" right to suppress and terrorise the Palestinian people in the occupied lands. There is no doubt the racist and terrorist attack of the settlers two days ago against two schools in Nablus and on West Bank roads against the native Arab population is an attempt to "create an organised body to retaliate against Arab attacks on Jews." This is a serious indication of the escalated settlers' official terrorism, coupled with increased border guard repression of the unarmed civilians in the occupied territories.

AL ITTIHAD
November 22

Cease-fire and National Unity

It is becoming clearer that the war in north Lebanon between Fatah factions is going to burn everything. Both sides are echoing their slogans that they are working for the Palestinian cause and people. The attackers want to reform the movement, and the defenders want to protect the city from agents who rebelled against legitimate PLO institutions.

The consequence, which neither party can ignore, is that more innocent people and good fighters will be killed. Even this remains an issue of dispute. One party tries to magnify the number of casualties and the other to reduce them. As a result, we conclude that both parties are damaging the accomplishments of our people and both believe the Palestinian people is their property to play with how they like.

The Palestinian people, who sacrified a great deal already, will damn all those involved as instruments in the hands of others or get involved by believing they are heroes when they talk of liberating Baddawi camp. They do not realise that the camp they are shelling is another victim of the imperialist-reactionary conspiracy against the Palestinian people.

Those who claim they represent our people have to realise that all our people want is for them to stop fighting before PLO unity and achievements are destroyed. Are they really concerned for their people?

AL MITHAQ
November 23

Leaguers, Occupation Officials Hold Political Parley

About 50 people, supporters of Israeli occupation, including the founder and former head of the 'civil administration' Menachem Milson and the former chairman of the Village League in Hebron Mohammed Nasser, attended a three-hour meeting at Nasser's house, in Dura, November 19. They sent an appeal to King Hussein, asking him to negotiate with Israel, and another to Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, asking him to resume negotiations with Israel and to "carry out the Camp David accords." The attendants also appealed to the Israeli authorities to permit the formation of a 'peace party' in the occupied territories. Some Israeli kibbutz members and Beduin attended the meeting, which was addressed by Mohammed Nasser, Menachem Milson and an Israeli lecturer in Haifa University.

Salem Arab, a Dura contractor who says he left the Village League because "it does not serve the issue of peace," told *Al Fajr* that Nasser applied to the Israeli authorities two months ago for permission to form a 'peace party.' The request was turned down. Arab sources said that Milson supported Nasser's demand in his speech.

Abd al-Rahman Natshe, the director of the Arab Graduates League in Hebron, told *Al Fajr* that Nasser's latest move "does not represent the aspirations of the Palestinian people for self-determination and to establish an independent state. These people, who only represent themselves, are attempting to create an alternative leadership to the PLO in the occupied territories," Natshe said. "They will fail in the same way the Village League failed."

Ali Qawasmeh, pharmacy owner and well-known Hebron nationalist, told *Al Fajr*, "Our people unanimously reject these opportunists and recognise only the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Work Permit Crisis Overcome

The crisis over political work permits for foreign passport-holding faculty at Bir Zeit University ended, November 20, when nineteen teachers signed applications described as "non-political" by a BZU statement. They were immediately filed with the senior legal advisor at Beit El, the military occupation headquarters.

The compromise work permit application was drawn up after a week of negotiations. All political undertakings were withdrawn. The form now states that the applicant "read and understood the security regulations which are in effect upon receipt of the work permit."

The non-political formulation was accepted by student representatives, the employees union, the university administration and the faculty, according to a statement issued by foreign passport-holders, November 21.

The compromise brought to an end 14 months of conflict between the universities and the military. Last year a new work permit application was issued containing anti-PLO clauses. It was rejected. During the year over 30 teachers were expelled and all non-West Bank ID holders barred from campuses.

The military had ordered 20 BZU teachers out of the West Bank by last week if they had not signed the political application. This demand was dropped as negotiators worked out the compromise.

There was a parting shot, however. Israel Radio and Arabic television services alleged, November 20, that teachers had signed two forms, one of which was an "anti-PLO" statement. In their statement, foreign faculty described the report as a "cynical lie, clearly devised to divide the BZU community." Hebrew and foreign services "did not report this same lie," the teachers said.

TAXMEN DETAIN BEIT SAHOUR ENGINEER

Israeli taxmen detained, November 18, Issa Jiryis Tawil, a Beit Sahour engineer and contractor on the pretext of investigating his books for alleged faults in value added tax payments. Tawil's wife says her husband was conscientious in payments.

Tawil was taken to the tax department offices in Bethlehem, on Friday noon, by two Israeli officials. All records in his office were seized.

Tawil, the latest of a long line of business people held, has been in business since 1972. The Israelis refused to release him on bail. His wife says he has always paid taxes, his latest amounting to IS176,000. She explained that the office's book-keeping is done by a certified accountant.

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BETHANY CARE

accomplished. These children and homeless older people find someone caring for them at the shelter.

Both institutions, like most charities in and around Jerusalem, depend heavily on the local population. The Sisters of Charity are supported by the French government and get help from individual donors and visitors. They do not have any other source for support. Similarly, the Four Homes of Mercy needs every bit of help it can get and survives solely on the contributions of local people and some from abroad. They have 120 residents, 34 elderly and handicapped men, 24 old and handicapped women, 21 crippled children between the ages of 3-12 years and the rest are homeless children.

The Four Homes shelter wants to build another floor over the shelter as a separate ward for the aged. But because of lack of funds, the construction is only half-finished. Money is also needed to care for the patients and to keep the premises functional and sanitary, according to Mrs Farraj. Officials at the shelter try to solicit money from outside the country. Many foreigners are eager to help, but unless they see similar enthusiasm from the locals, their interest wanes, administrators say. Several doctors have volunteered time to treat patients.

Mrs Farraj and Sister Christine agree that there is always a need for more money, especially in today's difficult economic situation. The money they have, both said, is never enough to allow improvements. Among the things needed by the Four Homes are medical equipment, household materials, baby diapers and renovation of the premises. Yet in spite of the difficulties, the work goes on.

The political situation in this region has created many needy people and is bound to create many more, experts point out.

Self-help has been the Palestinians' response to the absence of state social services. In Jerusalem alone there are 92 charitable institutions. This number, serving a Jerusalem Palestinian population of only 100,000, and other West Bank centres, reflects the difficulty of life for many people here, activists point out. Since 1948, the majority of the Palestinian people have been perforce receiving aid from different international organisations. Nonetheless, the Sisters of Charity and the Four Homes of Mercy still face a mammoth task, and one which is not lessening.

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Bomb Attacks

Najah University, also in Nablus, was roadblocked, preventing students and faculty from getting to classes.

Military raids and mass arrests were reported in Nablus and Jalazon refugee camp, near Ramallah.

Israeli vehicles were stoned near Kalandia refugee camp, on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road. In Beitillo, near Ramallah, unidentified masked men tried to arson a car. They shot at villagers who chased them away from the village, locals reported.

Major traffic delays were reported, November 18, when troops blocked the Ramallah-Jerusalem and Bethlehem-Jerusalem roads. Travellers reported long delays as they were repeatedly ordered in and out of vehicles, had their ID card numbers registered, baggage checked and answered questions on the purpose of their journey. One taxi driver was told to deflate his tyres for "security" reasons, local papers reported.

There were reports of stone-throwing, and a curfew was imposed on the Tulkarm refugee camp.The curfew on Balata camp, Nablus, was lifted. A travel ban on Balata ID-holders was revoked.

Demonstrations in support of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat were held in Bir Zeit University and Ya'abad, near Jenin.

The largest reported demonstration occurred, November 19, in Ya'abad, near Jenin, when hundreds of residents, mostly youths, marched through the town and chanted anti-Israel slogans. There were clashes when soldiers tried to disperse the protest. Reports said the youths threw stones at tear gas-firing soldiers. The town was later placed under curfew.

On the same day, Israeli troops dispersed a similar demonstration in Balata refugee camp, outside Nablus. Balata residents reported that the Israeli Army "showered" the camp with tear gas before they were able to control it and put it under curfew.

After a stoning incident, November 20, settlers attacked the town of Halhoul, near Hebron (see report, page 3). Settlers also entered Mazuz al-Masri school, Nablus, and threatened the headmaster, according to local reports. They said students had repeatedly stoned them at their sit-in at an illegal settlement outside the city, according to Israeli sources.

Two cars and an Israeli Egged bus were stoned in Jenin, according to local sources. No arrests or injuries were reported. Israeli sources reported the arrest of two youths after a military vehicle was stoned in an unnamed Nablus-area village.

In Tulkarm a military patrol was petrol bombed, November 22. No injuries were reported.

The next day, 3000 Nablus students carried Palestinian flags in a demonstration in the town, local reporters said. The protest started at Mazuz al-Masri and Gamal Abd al-Nasser schools. Local reports said soldiers teargassed Al-Am'iriyya school.

Najah University, Nablus, was roadblocked all week. Israeli military spokespeople said it was a measure to prevent demonstrations. The students council was summoned, November 23, to local military headquarters and said afterwards they were warned against holding demonstrations on November 29, Palestine partition day.

During the past two weeks of protests, several hundred youths, mostly students, have been arrested. Prison sentences of up to six months were passed on students at summary trials. Adnan Doukan, 17, from Balata camp, was sentenced, November 21, to six months imprisonment and fined IS30,000. Doukan was charged and found guilty of taking part in an alleged demonstration in Askar refugee camp on November 8. Lawyers report hundreds of summary trials have been held in the last two weeks.

Eight Nablus youths were released, November 18, after spending two weeks in prison for alleged participation in demonstrations.

Residents of Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem, report that over 200 people from the camp are being held in al-Fara'a punitive detention centre, near Jenin. Thirty-seven of them have been sentenced at summary trials, camp sources said.

Three Jenin area youths were sentenced to between five and seven years jail, November 23, for petrol bombing. Hussein Hamdan, 20, and Farhi Haddi, 18, from Arrabeh received seven and five years respectively. Mahmoud Udde, 23, also got five years.

In Gaza, lawyers report that dozens of students have been fined IS10-20,000 each in summary trials in the Strip. Youths are tried four or five at a time, they report.

Non-judicial punishments were also handed down. Eighteen Nablus school students were ordered not to return to classes, November 24, by the military after they were detained on charges of demonstrating.

The youth wounded during demonstrations in Jabaliya camp, near Gaza, November 18, was hit by rubber bullets, according to reliable information from the camp. At the time, information on the incident was suppressed.

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Liquidate Camps

people their opinion regarding the resettlement plan." Hassan Abd al-Jawad, the chairman of the Social Youth Centre in the camp, said, "We in Dheisheh camp reject Ben Porat's settlement plan because we do not want to improve our living conditions but rather look for a historical political solution based on UN resolutions."

Ahmad Muhaisen, a trade unionist who lives in the camp, told Israeli journalists, "I do not see any humanitarian reasons (which could have) prompted the Israeli authorities to implement a resettlement plan. I do not trust the occupation which has indirect responsibility for the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps."

Muhaisen said that during a visit to the camp last year, Ben Porat asked residents to sign documents saying they have no land within the green line. Muhaisen said that the refugees' problems must be solved within the comprehensive framework of a solution to the Palestinian problem. The residents asserted that harassments against the camp have increased since "Ben Porat's political project" was presented.

Meron Benvenisti, former deputy mayor of Jerusalem and a leading land settlement expert, is cynical about the implementation of Ben Porat's plan. He told *Al Fajr* its fate will be "similar to the fate of at least 10 other supposed plans aimed at 'improving' the conditions of the Palestinian refugee camps."

Benvenisti said that if the plan is really aimed at improving conditions in the refugee camps, then it is good. "But if its aims are to create new facts, like the security conditions which (then commander of the southern district, Ariel) Sharon created in the Gaza Strip in 1971-72, then it is a bad plan," he said.

Benvenisti called the plan "a storm in a tea cup," since the government is not giving it first priority.

WEEKLY REVIEW

November 16, 1983

SCHOOL RE-OPENED

HEBRON — Head of the education department in Hebron Mohammed Ja'abari said the Israeli military has accepted his appeal that Tariq Ibn Ziad Secondary School be re-opened. The school was closed following clashes between settlers and students.

BOMB FOUND IN SCHOOL

A bomb was found in an elementary school in al-Quja near Jericho. The police were called and dismantled the bomb. Residents in the village believe settlers from nearby settlements placed the bomb.

ISRAEL TO ANNEX

BEIRUT — Sources here said Israel has completed all procedures necessary to annex South Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip before next year's US presidential elections. The sources said Israel's Premier Yitzhak Shamir was ready to announce his plan for annexing the West Bank on the day his government was approved by the Knesset.

CARS HIT BY ISRAELI BULLETS

Yediot Aharanot reported that 13 cars in Nablus were damaged when Israeli soldiers fired shots at demonstrators.

ELECTRICITY COMPANY RESTRICTED

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Jerusalem city council issued an order stopping the construction of an electric power station by the Jerusalem Electricity Company, near Shufat.

CURFEW IN BALATA

The state-run Israel Radio said a curfew was imposed on Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, and two Israeli buses were stoned near Arroub refugee camp. No further information was available on these reports. Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem, was still under curfew and surrounded by Israeli soldiers, who took positions on rooftops overlooking the camp. In Gaza, students demonstrated carrying pictures of Yasir Arafat.

SETTLEMENT EXPANSION FEARED

JERUSALEM — Residents of a Jeeb neighborhood, near Ramallah, have expressed fear that a road to be opened between the new Ze'ev settlement, Hadasha and Aivon is aimed at encircling the area called Khurbat al-Adas, therefore threatening the 25 Palestinian families living there.

The families said that area has been declared a 'green', zone which forbids building. Meanwhile, the Israeli military demolished a room owned by a village resident and is threatening to demolish two more under the pretext that the families did not obtain permission to build.

November 17, 1983

YOUTHS WOUNDED

GAZA — Two youths from the Gaza Strip were wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire at demonstrators protesting the Syrian-Libyan attacks on PLO forces in north Lebanon, according to Israel Radio. The radio also reported that Qadri Touqan high school in Nablus was ordered closed for one week by the military government after settlers' cars were stoned in its vicinity.

The curfew imposed on Balata refugee camp after a Molotov was thrown at an Israeli military vehicle entered its second day. The curfew on Dheisheh camp was lifted.

In Nablus, Israeli soldiers raided the city and Balata refugee camp, taking people into custody and confiscating books. Road blocks were set up on the streets leading to Najah University. At Jalazon camp, near Ramallah, dozens of refugees were taken in for interrogation. At Kalandia, rocks were hurled at an Israeli bus passing the camp.

SETTLEMENT REVIVED

The Knesset settlement committee has decided to establish a new settlement near Elon Moreh, which the High Court previously ordered dismantled, Israel television said. The new site is only 500 meters away from the controversial old site. Land for the new settlement will come from the Arab village of Rojeib.

16 DEAD LIBYANS SHIPPED HOME

DAMASCUS — A special Libyan plane left Damascus headed for the Libyan capital carrying the bodies of 16 soldiers killed during the recent attack on Baddawi refugee camp, according to local reports.

HUNGER STRIKE AT BIR ZEIT

BIR ZEIT — Several student blocs at Bir Zeit University held a one-day hunger strike and sit-in in protest against the continued attack on the Palestinian revolutionaries in north Lebanon. The strikers sang nationalist songs and carried posters condemning the attacks.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO SYRIA

AMMAN — Jordan's ministry of interior ordered all citizens travelling to Syria to obtain a special exit visa from the ministry as of November 19. Jordan has been recently accusing Syria of being behind a wave of bomb attacks in different parts of the Jordanian capital.

Tulkarm refugee camp: Israeli authorities put the camp under curfew, November 18, following stone-throwing attacks on Israeli cars. Last week two residents of Tulkarm were killed by Israeli soldiers.

TWO ATTACKS ON ISRAELI TARGETS

TEL AVIV — An Israeli military spokesman said an Israeli soldier was wounded when shots were fired from a car near Tyre. He added that the Israeli patrol was hit by RPGs and light arms fire, which damaged the vehicle. The attack occurred near Tama, South Lebanon.

Israel Radio reported also that snipers fired at an Israeli soldier at a post on the Awali River. No one was hurt, the radio report claimed.

ARAB-OWNED CAR SET ON FIRE

RAMALLAH — A car owned by Shaker Iseifan, from the village of Beitillo, near Ramallah, was set on fire by unknown arsonists. Shots were fired at the residents as they chased the assailants, who fled in a waiting jeep.

SYRIA INTERFERES WITH TV

AMMAN — Jordan TV interrupted its regular programmes to apologise to Syrian viewers for Syrian interference with their broadcasts.

EXPOSE ASSAILANTS

JERUSALEM — Lawyer Felicia Langer has urged Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens to pursue and expose those who attacked Dheisheh refugee camp and shot and injured three Palestinians there, last week. Dheisheh residents say the assailants were settlers disguised as Arabs.

DETENTION ORDERS EXTENDED

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military court in Ramallah extended the detention period of Na'ima Khawaja, a teacher from Bethlehem, claiming that she is still being interrogated for alleged membership in a Palestinian organisation. Khawaja was arrested October 23. Khawaja's sister was also detained, apparently to pressure Na'ima to confess.

Another Palestinian, Naief Mahmoud, arrested November 5 for alleged membership in a Palestinian organisation and for carrying out military activities, was refused release on bial.

A third, Fathi Attallah, arrested October 10, was ordered remanded in jail for 25 more days. Attallah was arrested on suspicion of travelling to Syria for the purpose of recruitment to a guerrilla organisation.

November 18, 1983

TULKARM CAMP CURFEWED

TULKARM — Tulkarm refugee camp was placed under curfew at 9:00 am, Israel Radio said. The curfew was imposed following stone-throwing attacks on Israeli vehicles.

PRISONERS REPORT ON INMATE'S DEATH

BEER SHEBA — Palestinian political prisoners at Beer Sheba jail issued a statement on the recent death of a fellow inmate, Ishaq Maraghi. The statement said Maraghi died after he suffered a heart attack. The statement, nevertheless, held the prison authorities responsible for Maraghi's death for not giving him medical treatment following an earlier heart attack.

WOMEN PROTEST PRISON CONDITIONS

JERUSALEM — Palestinian women held a two-hour sit-in at the Professional Unions compound in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem, to protest Israeli measures against women political prisoners in Neve Tertza jail, Ramle.

The protestors, who were joined by Israeli women sympathisers, demanded better treatment of the Palestinian women and all political prisoners held by Israel.

ACTIVE STUDENTS TO BE PUNISHED

NABLUS — Students who are arrested for political offences will not be allowed to return to their schools after their release, the Israeli military instructed educational institutions in the West Bank. The military also ordered school principals not to allow students who are absent from their school for more than 20 days to sit for the *tawjihi* (secondary school marticulation certificate) exams.

The military also ordered that teachers at closed schools will be transferred to other institutions.

ARGENTINA TO RECOGNISE PLO

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's foreign minister designate said his new government will recognise the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people after it takes office. He said his government supports the Palestinians' right for equal participation in Middle East negotiations.

MILITARY CLOSE FILES ON FOREIGNERS

Al Hamishmar said the Israeli military has decided to close files of 20 foreign teachers at Bir Zeit University accused of forging work permits. The paper said not enough evidence was available to charge the instructors.

CHECKPOINTS ON WEST BANK ROADS

WEST BANK — Checkpoints were set up on the main roads leading to Bethlehem and Ramallah. Cars travelling on the roads were closely searched. A taxi

driver was forced by Israeli soldiers to deflate his car tires under the pretext of searching the car.

39 DEAD IN FRENCH AIR RAID

BEIRUT — Thirty-nine people were killed and more than 150 wounded as a result of the recent French air raid on the Lebanese Amal militia strongholds in the Beqa'a valley.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DISCRIMINATION

NAZARETH — An Arab family from Nazareth had to seek police protection when it moved into a new flat in a predominantly Israeli neighbourhood in Upper Nazareth. The Israelis tried to block attempts by the Arab family to move into their new apartment.

YOUTHS RELEASED

NABLUS — Eight youths arrested two weeks ago on charges of stone-throwing at Israeli targets were released.

BALATA CURFEW LIFTED

NABLUS — A curfew imposed on Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, was lifted. The camp had been under curfew since last Wednesday. Travel restrictions imposed on the camp residents for two weeks have also been lifted.

LAWYER OUT — STUDENT RELEASED

BEIT JALA — A lawyer from Beit Jala, Salim Hathweh, was released from jail after serving 18 months on political charges. A student from Bethlehem University, Sana'a Abu Ghoush, was also released after a one-week detention period.

HIT AND RUN BUS

HEBRON — A Hebron area resident, Mohammed Affaneh, was killed and another one, Issa Adwan, seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident involving an Israeli Egged bus. The two residents were driving a jeep down the Beit Jibril—Jerusalem road when they were hit. The bus did not stop.

November 19, 1983

ARAB JOURNALISTS OPEN OFFICE

JERUSALEM — The Arab Journalists Association announced that its office in Wadi Joz, Jerusalem, will be open to the public from 10:00am — 2:00pm every day except Fridays.

LITERACY HIGHEST AMONG PALESTINIANS

PARIS — Palestinians and Lebanese have the highest literacy rates in the Arab world, with 86 percent literate. In comparison, 65 percent of the Gulf population is illiterate, according to a recent book by Aisha Limseen, published in Paris.

Her three-year survey found that 70 percent of Arab women believe in freedom of opinion and 22 percent believe women should wear the veil.

More than 99 percent of the men and women surveyed said Zionism and American policy are the major threats to the Arab world.

On the issue of Israel, 54 percent said they will recognise Israel according to the 1947 UN partition plan after an independent Palestinian state is established.

ELIEZER VOWS REPRESSION

Israel's military coordinator for the occupied territories, Binyamin Ben Eliezer, said he will do his best to crush the uprising in the West Bank refugee camps by continuing with the current measures of curfews and shutting schools and houses. He said he will increase the military presence in the camps to learn more about what is going on in them.

NAZARETH RALLIES BEHIND ARAFAT

NAZARETH — Nazareth municipal officials, speaking in a rally here, expressed support for PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat in his fight against the Syrian-Libyan backed Palestinian rebels.

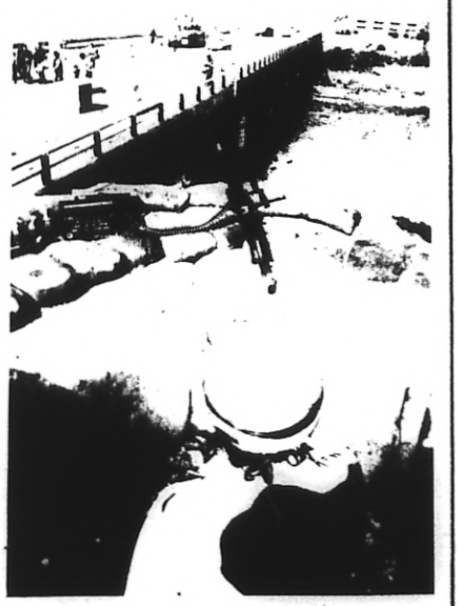
Nazareth Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad said that instead of confronting NATO plans to invade Lebanon and destroy the PLO, Syria is "continuing its adventure against the PLO." He said what is happening in the PLO is not a split. He described the conflict as a small group of people who have seceded from the Palestinian line. He said the Palestinian people in Palestine are behind the PLO under Arafat.

November 20, 1983

MOVE TOWARDS MERGER

KUWAIT — A PLO official said the three main PLO groups, Fatah, and the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine are discussing merging their groups in order to save the PLO.

The official said the groups' leaders, Yasir Arafat of Fatah, George Habash of the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP, have agreed to the merger in principle. Hawatmeh has recently moved out of Syria to protest Syria's role in the fighting in north Lebanon.



Israeli gunner overlooks Awali bridge crossing in Lebanon. Thirty-nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in 89 attacks since redeployment south of the river in September.

NO SETTLEMENT CUTS

Settlement in the occupied territories will not be affected by proposed budget cuts in the next fiscal year, a spokesman for Israel's housing ministry said.

The spokesman said more than US$1billion will be spent in the March 1984 to Febuary 1985 fiscal year on West Bank settlements. Money will go towards building six new settlements and adding 2400 housing units in existing settlements.

CELL ARRESTED

TEL AVIV — Israel television said last night that a group of Jerusalem and Ramallah residents were arrested and charged with killing an Israeli settler, Aharon Gross, in Hebron more than four months ago.

The report alleged the group was in possession of Gross's machine gun. It claimed the group is Islamic.

SETTLERS STOP TRAFFIC

TEL AVIV —Israeli television reported settlers from Kiryat Arba closed the main Jerusalem-Hebron highway, claiming a stone was thrown at an Israeli bus travelling to the ultra-rightest settlement.

REDEPLOYMENT CASUALTY FIGURES HIGH

HAIFA — Israeli casualty figures were given at 35 soldiers dead and 64 wounded in 89 military operations against their positions since Israel redeployed its forces south of the Awali River, an Israeli television military correspondent reported.

SETTLERS ATTACK SCHOOL

JERUSALEM — Israeli settlers entered Ma'azuz al-Masri and Jamal Abd al-Nasser schools in Nablus following student demonstrations. It was reported the students attacked the settlers with stones, damaging a car.

BOOKSTORE CLOSED IN GAZA

GAZA — The Israeli military authorities ordered a bookstore owned by Mahmoud Awadallah to be closed for three months. Awadallah was arrested and held for 18 days before release on bail. He is awaiting trial on a charge of possessing banned books.

PALESTINIAN VOLUNTEERS TO TRIPOLI

AMMAN — Press reports here said a group of Palestinian volunteers is getting ready to go to Tripoli, north Lebanon, to fight with Arafat's forces.

The Jordanian *Al Dustur* newspaper said, quoting a Palestinian official, that thousands of volunteers came to the PLO office in Jordan asking to be taken to Tripoli. The official said many volunteers have already reached Tripoli, getting through the sea and land sieges.

November 21, 1983

WAQF DENIES ISRAELI REPORT

JERUSALEM — Hassan Tahboub, general director of the Muslim *waqf*, denied Israeli press reports that his organisation has approved a Jerusalem municipality plan to demolish the Jerusalem bus station which it owns.

Reacting to a report in *HaAretz*, Tahboub said he and other *waqf* officials did meet the West Jerusalem deputy mayor to discuss council plans for the bus station. He said the meeting did not discuss ownership.

US COMPANY FILMS BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM — An American film company was seen shooting scenes in Bethlehem streets. Some reports say the film they are working on is a documentary about Bethlehem. Some city residents believe it is an Israeli propaganda movie.

CHILDRENS DAY

QALQILIYA — Al-Shaima Secondday School celebrated International Childrens Day with a series of cultural activities.

SETTLERS FORM ANTI-ARAB SQUAD

JERUSALEM — Settler representatives said they formed an organisation to deal "severely" with Palestinians in the occupied territories who "attack Jews", at a meeting in Kiryat Arba, near Hebron.

Israel Radio said, in reporting the meeting, that the settlers refused to explain what they are planning or doing. But, it added, they said the measures they will take will be "severe" and "soon everybody will see what they are."

DHEISHANS PURSUED AT WORK

JERUSALEM — Several refugees from Dheisheh camp were arrested at work in Israeli factories and charged with curfew violation.

VISAS FOR LEBANESE CANCELLED

BEIRUT — The official Radio Lebanon claimed the Israeli military authorities in South Lebanon informed the Lebanese authorities in occupied Sidon that it will allow movement across the Awali River without special permits. Early last week Israelis were requiring Lebanese citizens to obtain travel permits from them if they wanted to cross Israeli lines.

November 22, 1983

SINIORA RESTRICTED

JERUSALEM — *Al Fajr*'s Editor-in-Chief, Hanna Siniora, was barred from entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the Israeli military. The order restricting his movement, signed by the central region's military commander, cited unspecified "security" reasons. It is the second consecutive year-long order he has received.

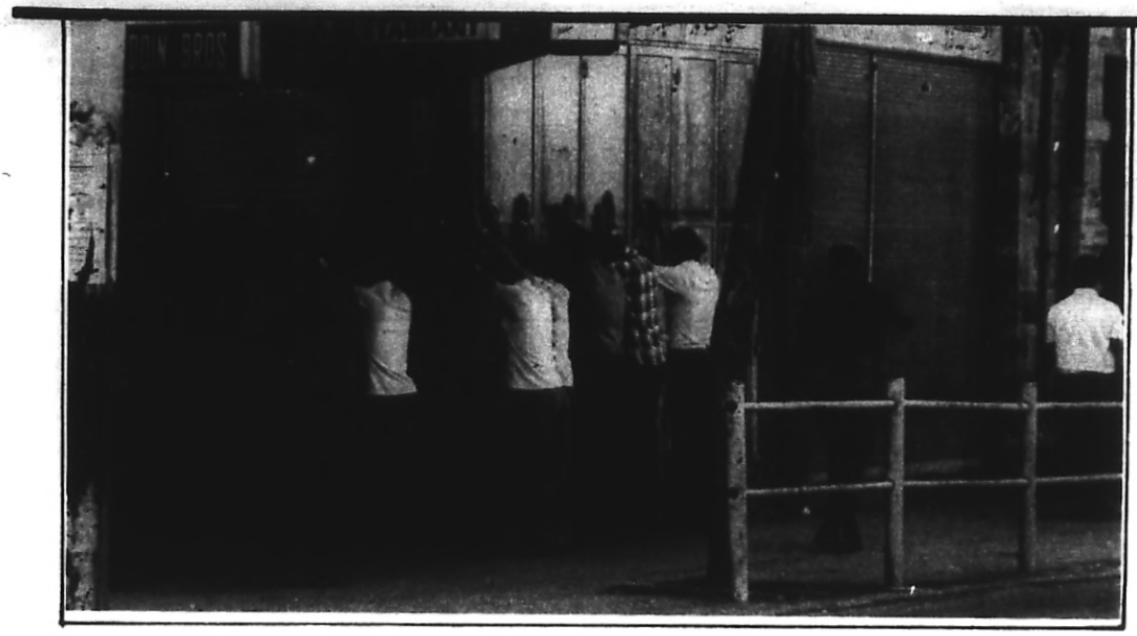
STUDENTS RALLY BEHIND ARAFAT

HEBRON — The Student Youth Movement at Hebron Polytechnic rallied in support of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and to protest Syrian-Libyan attacks on refugee camps in north Lebanon.

Students carried portraits of Arafat and chanted pro-Arafat slogans.

EXIT FROM TULKARM

TULKARM — The Israeli military lifted a one-month ban on Tulkarm residents to travel to Jordan.



General Ben Eliezer's 'shock treatment' is presently being exercised on the occupied territories. Daoud Kuttab of *Al Fajr* examines how their new plan fits historically into the overall pattern of Israeli oppression.

FROM 'IRON FIST' TO 'SHOCK TREATMENT': POLICIES OF REPRESSION

The latest Palestinian uprising in the West Bank, and Israel's repression of it, raises again the question of what Israel's ultimate policy is towards the Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

The new policy has a name — the "shock treatment." It has its victims — two killed in Tulkarm and three injured in Dheisheh. But the hallmark of the "shock treatment" is the scores of "preventive curfews" which have been imposed all over the West Bank. Binyamin Ben Eliezer, the Israeli Army's West Bank and Gaza military coordinator who named the new policy, appears to most observers to be directing a new phase of the "iron fist" policy which had been enforced at differing stages since the beginning of the occupation.

On and Off Iron Fist

The use of violence to quell popular discontent has included strong retaliations, collective punishments and academic repression. The policy has been the occupation's approach since 1967. An examination of the history of repression in the occupied territories seems to indicate that Israel turns or loosens the screws depending on both the internal and Israeli political situations.

The first use of generalised and excessive force came in 1970 as a result of intensive acts of protest and resistance in the Gaza Strip. Ariel Sharon took command of the troops under the direction of then Defence Minister Moshe Dayan and began an unprecedented campaign of retaliation. The major aspect of the Israeli Army's response was the opening of wide roads in the middle of refugee camps, cracking down hard on any form of armed resistance. This policy, which included massive round-ups and arbitrary punishment, as well as the forced relocation of camp residents, was successful to an extent. The incidence of military actions against the occupiers dropped dramatically.

In the 1976 the occupation forces chose expulsion as the favoured tool. Abd al-Jawad Saleh, mayor of al-Bireh, Mayor Nadim Zarou of Ramallah and Dr Ahmad Natshe, nationalist nominee in the Hebron municipal elections, were all kicked out. There was a fierce Israeli crackdown on Palestinian demonstrations, which culminated in the killing of a Nablus student, Lena Nabulsi.

The next wave came in the late 1970s. The era of '78 and '79 became known as the period of the "iron fist," a term coined and policy championed by then Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizmann. He used old methods. Attempts were made to expel Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'a, and the authorities did kick out Mayors Fahd Qawasmeh and Mohammed Milhem of Hebron and Halhoul, and Hebron Judge Tamimi, after six Kiryat Arba settlers were gunned down. This was followed by a 40-day curfew on Hebron, which had seen denial of food and water to Hebronites as well as massive round-ups and interrogations. The "iron fist" culminated with bomb attacks by as yet unarrested West Bank settlers against three West Bank mayors that left Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf maimed.

After Weizmann's resignation, Ariel Sharon reappeared, this time as defence chief. He close the title "new atmosphere" to describe his policy. It brought with it the 'civil administration', which sparked the most violent Israeli response yet to Palestinian protest.

Sharon's new era put Israeli professor Menachem Milson at the helm of the West Bank military government. Milson got rid of most elected mayors, replacing them with military personnel, he closed West Bank universities and Israeli soldiers shot down Palestinian demonstrators like birds. Within a two-month period in April and May of 1981, Israeli soldiers killed at least 21 Palestinian youths. Now, in the aftermath of the Kahan report on the Sabra and Shatila massacres which led to the firing of Sharon, another professor, Moshe Arens, has taken over. He, along with new 'civil administration' head Shlomo Elia and coordinator Binyamin Ben Eliezer, assured Palestinians of their intention to search for ways to "bridge the gap with the Arabs of 'Judea and Samaria' (Israel's term for the West Bank)." No bridges materialised. Ben Eliezer's promises of finding 'moderate Arabs' to take over the municipalities of the West Bank's major cities failed and he seems to be turning back to collaborators, no doubt regretting having attacked the Village Leagues as 'quislings' when he took over.

With no innovation on the political level, the shock treatment has turned out to be a mix of old-new tactics:

* Long curfews: These have now been transformed by Ben Eliezer into 'preventive curfews'. These acts of collective punishment are now practised on Palestinian communities *before* any protest;

* Crackdown on national institutions: This took the form of the closure of Bethlehem University for two months, and the escalation in the problem of the work permits for foreign teachers at West Bank universities. The occupation authorities threatened to expel foreign teachers if they did not sign the controversial work permit application — with the political connotations involved;

* Collective punishment on camps: During the past two weeks Palestinian refugees from a number of camps, including Am'ari and Dheisheh, aged 12-60 were asked to stand in an open yard for many hours. The closure of the few streets still open in refugee camps was part of this collective punishment. So was the detouring of the major Jerusalem-Ramallah road for three days early in November;

* Opening fire at demonstrators. During the past weeks a clear decision by the occupation forces to open fire on demonstrating youths was noticed. These acts have resulted in the killing of two youths in Tulkarm and the wounding of three in both Dheisheh camp and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Reaction

Al Fajr contacted ousted Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'a and asked him to give his interpretation of the latest repressive wave. Shaka'a admitted that Israeli tactics change every now and then, but Shaka'a was adamant that the basic Israeli strategy in regards to the occupied territories has never been changed. "The Israeli strategy since 1967 has been that of forced emigration," said Shaka'a.

The Nablus national leader explained that the authorities use a number of means — whether they be political, propaganda, economic strangulation, he Village Leagues or brute force. "The Israelis' main aim is to empty the land of its inhabitants in order to annex it to Israel," Shaka'a explained.

Adnan Damiri, former head of the student's council at Najah University, echoed the same sentiments: "Israel's official policy towards the occupied territories is to encourage Palestinians to leave," he said. Damiri said that the Israeli policy can be quite clearly seen in the economic conditions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Tulkarm-born university student notes that the present atmosphere of terror is "intended to break the will of the people." He said the Israeli occupation forces are acting at a time when the PLO is involved in bloody internal conflict. "The Israeli approach is to say, 'Look, your PLO is being destroyed and your actions of protest are not getting you anywhere. It is better to leave or accept Israeli conditions'," he concluded.

Palestinians' problems, fortunately, do not include amnesia. Palestinians living in the occupied territories have no problem remembering Israel's past policies. "The new wave is clearly part of the same old Israeli strategy," concluded one veteran observer.